1882
–
1900

Records of the Members of the Boys Club of Fall River.

At a meeting of the subscribers to the agreement to form the "Boys Club of Fall River" held on Monday June sixth 1882, at four thirty o'clock P.M. at the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association of Fall River. The Rev. E. A. Buck, one of the subscribers to said agreement called the meeting to order and read the following agreement and notice of the meeting:

We whose names are hereto subscribed, do, by this agreement, associate ourselves with the intention to constitute a corporation according to the provisions of the one hundred and fifteenth chapter of the Public Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the acts in amendment thereof and in addition thereto.
The name by which the Corporation shall be known is the
Boys Club of Fall River
The purpose for which the Corporation is constituted is for the improvement of the moral, physical, intellectual and social nature of boys.
The place within which the Corporation is established or located is the City of Fall River within said Commonwealth.
In Witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands, this twenty third day of May in the year eighteen hundred and ninety two.

E A Buck
Harriet H. Brayton
Elizabeth French
Maria Davis
Percy S. Grant

George A. Chace.
Thomas Chew
John D. Flint
Martha M. Brow,
James. W. Bence

To

You are hereby notified, that the first meeting of the subscribers to an agreement to associate themselves with the intention to constitute a Corporation to be known by the name of the Boys Club of Fall River dated May twenty third A.D. 1882 for the purpose of organizing said Corporation for the adoption of by-laws and election of officers and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting, will be held on Monday the sixth of June A.D. 1882 at four thirty o'clock P.M., at the rooms of the Young Mens Christian Association in Fall River Mass.

E A Buck
one of the subscribers
May 23 1882

Bristol S.S. June 6th 1882. I certify that I have served the foregoing notice upon each of the subscribers by personally delivering in hand to each a copy of the same seven days at least before the day fixed for the first meeting.
E. A. Buck

Bristol S.S. June 6. 1892. Subscribed and sworn to before me
John S. Brayton Jr.
Justice of the Peace.

A majority of the subscribers to the Agreement were present.

Upon motion E. A. Buck was chosen unanimously chairman; and upon motion Harriet L. C. Brayton was unanimously chosen temporary clerk. both elections being by ballot. The temporary clerk was sworn as follows:

Bristol SS. June 6th 1882.

Then personally appeared Harriet H. Brayton and made oath that she would faithfully and impartially discharge the duties devolving upon her as temporary clerk of the Boys Club of Fall River before me John S Brayton Jr
Justice of the Peace

The following By Laws were then read, and unanimously adopted by ballot article by article:

Article I

The name of this Corporation shall be the, Boys Club of Fall River.

Article II

Any person on recommendation of the Executive Committee, by signing the Constitution, and paying the sum of three dollars, may become a member of the Corporation, and thereafter may continue a member, by payment of annual fee of three dollars.

Article III
Object.

The object of this Club is to provide and maintain rooms for the improvement of the moral, physical, intellectual and social nature of boys. The Club shall be furnished with books, games and a Penny Savings Bank. They may also be provided with manual training classes, educational classes, baths, dormitories, an employment bureau, entertainments and lectures.

Article IV

The Officers shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and an Executive Committee of nine, of which the Secretary and Treasurer shall be ex-officio members.

The Executive Committee, Secretary and Treasurer shall be chosen annually by ballot by the Corporation. At a subsequent meeting the Executive Committee shall chose by ballot from their number a President and Vice President.

All the above officers shall hold their office until their successors are chosen.

Article V.

Duties of Officers.

The President or in his absence, the Vice President, shall preside at all meetings of the Corporation.

The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Corporation and Executive Committee, and shall notify the members of regular or special meetings.

The Treasurer shall have the custody of the funds of the Corporation and shall disburse the same as ordered by the Executive Committee. He shall keep in books belonging to the Corporation, a correct record of his receipts and expenditures, and present a report thereof at each annual meeting.

The Executive Committee shall have full charge of the management of the Corporation and may make or authorize all necessary contracts. They shall make such rules and regulations for the government of the Corporation as they deem expedient. They shall audit the accounts of the Treasurer immediately before the annual meeting each year.

Article VI

Meetings of the Executive Committee & Quorum.

At any one meeting of the Corporation five members shall constitute a quorum.

The Executive Committee shall hold monthly meetings from October until June.

Special Meetings may be called at the request of three members of the Executive Committee. Notice shall be sent by the Secretary for all meetings at least seven days before the date ordered.

Article VII

Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting shall be held the third Monday in September, at which meeting the annual reports of Secretary, Treasurer and Superintendent shall be read, and officers for ensuing year elected.

Article VIII

Amendments.

The By Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any meeting of the members of the Corporation, provided that a notice of the proposed amendments shall have been sent to each member of the Corporation at least one week before the date of the meeting at which it is acted on.

Upon motion of Percy S. Grant it was voted that we proceed to the election of officers under the By Laws and that a Committee be appointed by the chair to count the votes.
The chair appointed Thomas Chew, who reported, all present had voted and all the votes cast were for the following Executive Committee:
E. A. Buck, George A. Chace, Percy S. Grant, John D. Flint, James H. Bence, Maria Davis. Elizabeth French. Martha M. Brow. and Harriet H. Brayton. who were declared elected. Thomas Chew also reported that all the votes cast for Treasurer were for James H. Bence who was then declared elected, and all the votes cast for Secretary were for Harriet H. Brayton who was declared elected.
The Secretary was sworn as follows:
Bristol S.S. June 6th 1882.
then personally appeared Harriet H. Brayton and made oath that she would faithfully and impartially discharge the duties devolving upon her as Secretary of the Boys Club of Fall River before me
John S Brayton Jr
Justice of the Peace

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of all the proceedings of the first meeting of the subscribers to the agreement to incorporate the Boys Club of Fall River while I was acting as temporary clerk.
Harriet H. Brayton.
Temporary Clerk.

On motion it was voted to adjourn.

I certify that the above is a true record of the meeting after my election as Secretary.

Harrick H. Dwight
Secretary

First Annual Report of Corporation.

The first Annual meeting of the Corporation of the Boys Club of Fall River, was held on the nineteenth of September 1882, and was adjourned to October thirty-first, 1882.

At the adjourned meeting held October 31st at 4 P.M. at the Y.M.C.A. parlor, seven members were present. Upon motion of Mr. Grant, it was voted, to proceed to the election of a Secretary, Treasurer and Board of Directors for the ensuing year.

Thomas Chew was appointed by the chair, a committee to collect and count the votes.

Mr. Chew reported seven votes were cast and were all for the following persons:

Harriet H. Brayton Secretary.
James H. Bence Treasurer.

Board of Directors:

E. A. Buck, George A. Chace, John D. Flint, Percy S. Grant, Thomas Chew, Martha M. Brown, Elizabeth French, Maria Davis, James H. Bence, Harriet H. Brayton. And they were declared to be unanimously elected.

Voted to adjourn.

Harriet H. Brayton.
Secretary.

Second Annual Report of Corporation.

Eight members were present at the Second Annual meeting of the Corporation of the Boys Club of Fall River, held September 18th, 1883, at the Young Men's Christian Association Rooms, at 5 P.M.
The President first read the call for meeting:
"The Annual Meeting of the Corporation of the Boys Club of Fall River will be held at the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association, Tuesday September 18th at 5 P.M.
1st To hear and act upon the reports of the Secretary, Treasurer, Superintendent, and Committees,
2nd To elect officers for the ensuing year.
3rd To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting."
Fall River Sept. 11th 1883. Robert K. Remington
Secretary.

This was followed by reading of records of the previous meeting by the Secretary.

Secretary's Annual report.
In presenting the third annual report of the Boys Club of Fall River, it is but due the new members of the Corporation, that in a few words we give a little of its history.
The Club was organized February 1st 1880, the object being according to Article II of Constitution, "to furnish and maintain rooms, for the improvement of the moral, physical, intellectual and social natures of boys."
*Thirty questions are asked and answered before the boy receives a membership ticket, which he presents every evening upon entrance. The parents are visited to see if they are in sympathy with the work, and to know or learn where their boy spends his evenings.

These visits of the Superintendent are for the most part welcomed by the parents, and need no excuses to visit these homes we would more readily give time thought and money to have the club a perfect one of its kind, and fully equipped with all branches of usefulness, that the boys will independent of their daily surroundings, grow to be men of a much higher character than their fathers.

* Anyone who has visited the rooms in [illegible] Block, Pocasset Street, of an evening, and seen the happy faces of the hundred or more boys, cannot doubt for a moment, but it is in a measure filling one of the long felt needs of a growing city like Fall River. Every boy is welcomed heartily by the Superintendent and made to feel he is just the boy he was on the lookout for. *

The Board of Directors have held nine meetings during the year, with an average attendance of four. According to Article II of Constitution, two hundred and six persons have been invited by the Board of Directors to become members of the Corporation; twenty seven have complied with the request of signing the Constitution.

In October the Board approved a new desk being purchased for the use of Superintendent at the rooms. The same month Mr. Chase and Mr. French were appointed a Committee to purchase games. The Treasurer Mr. Joseph A. Chase, Rev. Mr. Grant, and Mr. Chase were appointed a Committee on Carpentry Class with power to act. The Committee with the Superintendent made visits to similar clubs in Boston, with the view of obtaining suggestions that would benefit his work at Buffalo. Perhaps it is only just to ourselves, to say, that he found our organization compared favorably with those of our neighboring cities, and he was able to offer as well as receive suggestions. Mr. [illegible] has also helped during the year, by correspondence with [illegible] of [illegible], to [illegible] Boys Clubs in other cities.

The Ladies of the Board were appointed as Decoration Committee, with Mrs. [illegible] chairman, to arrange for the Christmas entertainment, as well as of the Anniversary [illegible] 1st.

March 9th the boys received their first invitation as a club, to attend a musical entertainment in the Music Hall, for the benefit of the [illegible] heroes. One hundred accepted the invitation, their good behavior at the entertainment elicited praise from all.

The Excursions for the boys this Summer, have been in the hands of the Superintendent and Mrs. [illegible].

During the year the rooms have been made cheerful, by the introduction of electric lights, fourteen burners have been placed in the rooms. During the past Summer, the ceiling has been whitewashed and furniture repaired.

The Board desire to express to Mrs. Taylor who has in charge the temperance branch connected with our organization, their hearty appreciation of her services –

The Superintendent has been untiring in his work & faithful in every branch department. It is but [illegible] he is equal to any emergency, and the friends of the Corporation may rest assured the funds contributed for the carrying on of this work are most judiciously expended.

As a member of our Board of Directors, the Rev. Percy S. Grant has rendered most valuable service the past two years, and it is with many regrets that we shall accept his resignation.

Herbert W. Boynton
Secretary.

The Annual report of Secretary approved and voted to be placed on file.

Treasurer's Annual report.

Balance on hand Sept. 1st 1892.	$849.75	
Received from Subscribers	$2270.25	
" interest on deposits	$ 28.85	
" from sale of lamps	$ 12.00	
		$3160.85
Expenditures		$1682.71
Balance on hand Sept 1st '93		$1478.14

Expenditures.

Superintendents Salary	$754.00
Librarians "	62.00
Door-keepers	62.00
Instructor in Carpentry Cl.	63.00
John D. Flint - Rent	348.00
Edison Electric Ill. Co. fixtures	30.00
Aldrich & Wells tools etc.	50.29
A. Homer Skinner lumber	28.66
Edison Ill. Co. lights 7 mo.	48.26
Cook & Osborn hardware	4.43
C. L. Campbell cakes [illegible]	9.00
David Howarth. Candy Xmas.	8.00
Geo. H. Haddock stereopticon ent.	8.00
Geo. E. Sanford - printing - books &c	32.95
Staples Coal Co. Coal	3.40
S. T. C. Buffington & Co "	3.00
H. C. [illegible] & Co. "	6.10
Borden & Lovell "	3.25
[illegible]	1.00
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]

J. E. Hammond - 2 window shades	$3.50
1 Supt. expenses to convention	$3.00
Stamping and Recording Incorporation certificate	$5.00
Transfer R. E. & [illegible]	$14.08
Hunt & [illegible] desk	$25.00
A. J. Nickerson [illegible]	$2.75
Abbott, Whitney Co., Boston [illegible]	$14.76
[illegible] bricks and exp[illegible]	$5.25
Postage	35.00
Sundries such as [illegible] [illegible], exp. matches [illegible] blanks etc.	52.73
	$1682.71
Balance	1478.14
James [illegible] Treasurer.	$3160.85

Annual report of Treasurer approved and voted to be placed on file.

Annual report of Superintendent.

To the Committee of the Fall River Boys Club

Dear Friends:

It is a duty and a pleasure for me to report progress. That this year we have had a larger attendance, a larger membership than ever before, we have had more and better entertainments; the behaviour of the boys in the rooms has been much better. Three years and a half have passed since the club first began. More than three thousand boys have been members of the club during that time. A large number of them are now young men, respectable, well-dressed, in good occupations, a credit to themselves and those connected with them. Our influence upon each boy may have been small, but it was an influence which pointed in the right direction and is not to be underestimated. The public are fairly well acquainted with our work after these years, us such a large measure of support as to make us feel deeply grateful. The daily papers, have freely given us notices in their columns. The business men have contributed of their goods and money. The various "Young Peoples Societies" and individual friends have entertained the boys freely. Let us hope that as we start out on another year we may keep the friends we have and make not a few new ones, and that our hands may be strengthened, so that we can reach in an increasingly effective way the poor boys of our city.

B. Life and its Temptations.

The temptations of a boy are many in our city. To steal, to fight, to smoke, to lie and swear can be learnt in one easy lesson. To undo these lessons so easily learned requires perseverance, patience and tact, and the love of better things in their place. Of course the home is in a great measure to blame for the evil existing. In many homes are intemperate parents; in others are mothers and daughters living lives of open or ill concealed shame. Fathers are dead, and mothers have little or no control over their boys: mothers are gone and what is home without her; some boys are without both father and mother, and in at least one case that has come under my notice, are better off without them. There are a great many boys on the streets through these various causes, and the Boys Club opens its doors and invites them in. In a measure we provide a home with its pleasures for two hours every week day evening and nine months in the pool for them. The club is not a place designed for good boys. not every boy who is a member is a bad boy by [illegible]. but when it becomes necessary to choose between a clean and neat, or a ragged & dirty boy, the dirty boy is taken. Of these boys 152 have no father: 82 no mother; and 20 boys have neither father nor mother. They live principally in streets East of Main St. and from Columbia St. on the South to Cherry St. on the north. If you have travelled much on Central Sts, Pleasant and Spring Sts. and the streets intersecting you have [illegible] some idea of the kind of boys we deal with. The territory mentioned needs our influence more than any other section of the city. We are fortunate in being in the right place and at the right time.

Birth places and Occupations.

Of our future citizens 743 were born in Fall River, in other countries 300: in other parts of our own state and of the United States 106. There are boys from every state in New England, New York, Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota. From Foreign Countries there are boys from England, Ireland, and Scotland Russia, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Nova Scotia and Canada. About 900 boys attend school, and 250 work. About 300 boys are fourteen years of age and over, & the remaining 850 under fourteen years, with an average of about 13 years. There are Jews, Protestants and Catholics, the latter being about 60 to 40 Protestants and Jews. I have never known of any difference between the boys on account of religious professions. Occasionally a Jew boy is called "Sheeny" but they are well able to take care of themselves and usually play with one another.

Report of attendance contrasted with previous year.

	1892, 3	1881, 2	1890, 1
Membership	1,169	1000	900
Aggregate no. of boys present	24,043	21,402	19170
Average " " "	105	97½	92
Agg. " " reading	7,831	7058	5,170
Av. " " "	34	32	23
Largest present at one time	300	228	210
Depositors in Penny Bank	386	217	137
Amt. Deposited " "	$187.43	$328	$112.94
No. of boys washing hands or face	754	597	No record.
Entertainments held	12	10	9
Talks given	1	4	3
Classes held, dumb bells	30		
" " Carpenters	67		
Present in classes dumb-bells	574		
" " " Carpenters	377		

Number of evenings club was open

	92.3	91.2	90.1
	229	219	227
" " boys in excursions	128	285.	162

The dumb bell drill is an exercise we have during the colder months and I am the instructor. We have imitation guns for a company of boys in military drill but we have not been able to find instructors who would give their services. We hope to be more fortunate this year.

Carpentry.

We have had two classes in Carpentry of six boys each. Class "A" works on Mondays and Tuesdays. Class "B" on Thursday & Fridays. They have a practical carpenter for instructor who is paid for his services. Quite a number of very useful articles have been made for them both by the Club and themselves. Boxes & shelves, foot stools, and picture frames, benches, and a desk for the superintendent are some of the articles made. Good tools are furnished and the aim is to have the boys do their work well. Their progress has been very satisfactory. For the coming season we hope to add a "Cobbler-shop" and perhaps type setting, on a small scale, with your approval.

Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children:

The past year I have acted as agent for this society. The first case was a boy beaten very often and harshly by his father. The boy's step mother was perhaps a good deal of the cause. The feeling between the father and his mother and sisters was very bitter. The Grandmother wanted the boy. He finally ran away from his home and went to live with his Grandmother. After threats on both sides of going to law the matter was settled amicably by the father giving a promise not to disturb them re the boy. The second was to cause the arrest of a man who had deserted his family in Cambridge. He said his wife drank & I have heard since that he was supporting his children all right. The third case was where the mother, who had neglected her child when young and practically given her away, desired to claim her after the child had been discharged from some State institution. From personal knowledge, and information from others, I reported she was unfit to have charge of her. The girl was given to the Grandfather and at last report which was recent was doing well. In this case I attended Probate Court in Boston. The fourth case is a boy who is a member of the Club. Turned out of home in the dead of Winter, through kind friends and myself he was provided with a home. The case was taken through the Probate Court by city solicitor George Grime and a guardian appointed. He is doing well, paying his own way and recently bought a bicycle.

Before the guardian was appointed I used to go to the mill on pay-days to get his pay so that his mother who is a lewd and drunken woman, could not take the wages from him. These are little things I know but they change the whole current of these lives.

Employment.

Occasionally we have requests for boys to work. The postmaster, Talbot & co. and Newton R. Earl and the Fall River National Bank have done so the past season. In every case we have a boy employed at these places except the post office. While another who got his first place through us, has gone to E. S. Browns. Small jobs such as distributing circulars are occasionally found for Boys. One reason why we do not get work for more boys is because every applicant wants a "good boy" — Boys that are not good we could furnish by the score, while the good boys can get positions through other influences than ours. Our aim is to send the best we have for any vacant place, and so far they have given satisfaction.

Photographs.

We have received the photographs of Mr. Walter P. Phillips and Andrew Carnegie Esq. for our collection of poor boys who have become rich or famous men.
Mr. Carnegie kindly sent two books of which he is the author. We now have Edison, Barnum, Gov. Burke of No. Dakota besides the above named. We cannot get all we want through the ears of our boys but we can put before their eyes mottoes which will lodge in the heart, and faces which may appeal to them to

climb up the ladder of fame or riches in which his poverty was not a barrier.

Donations and Entertainments.

Among the many very acceptable gifts were 3 sleds, and $1.50 for painting and repairing them, from Mrs. Joseph Carr; 3 sleds and a jig-saw from Ald. Wm. D. Bush. ton of cabbages from Mr. Frank Alber; ½ ton of coal each from Mr. H. F. Thomas, and Staples Coal Co. subscriptions to the Youths Companion, the second year from a friend; several loads of kindling wood from Mr. Geo. H. Bliss. croquet table things, Rev. E. A. Bush; 3 boxes of pop-corn cake Mrs. George S. Davis; old and complete volumes of Youths Companions from the Y. W. C. T. U. two baskets of peanuts on Thanksgiving & Christmas eve. from an unknown giver; an over-coat from Mrs. French; flowers & bunting from Hon. John S. Brayton, occasionally a dollar or more from individual members of the Committee for some immediate need. besides books, papers and little things which are noted and gratefully received at the time but too numerous to mention here.

The Boys were entertained by the Young People of the First & Central Congregational Churches, Pearl St. and the Emerson Glee class, the Elite Orchestra, Mrs. Joseph Taylor and Miss Annie Welsh have brought separate companies, while the remainder have been got together by the Superintendent and consisted of various individuals who had some special talent that amused. Christmas and the Anniversary days we have exceptional entertainments of which Mrs. Burr will speak.

The Penny Savings Bank.

The Savings Bank has proved very helpful to our boys. A few cents saved week by week means clothing hats & shoes for the boy. The same few cents spent in cigarettes ends in smoke and a bad lazy boy. We try by this means to encourage the one and prevent the other. With what pride does a boy withdraw his money for shoes overcoat, new hat, Christmas presents, or to re-deposit it in some city bank.

After the money has been once accumulated it is then used for a good purpose. I offered a prize of a gold dollar at Christmas for the largest amount deposited. Clothing, shoes, hats, bicycles, skates, oars, gloves, catechisms, excursions, removal from the city, and to be re-deposited are the most frequent reasons against withdrawals. Quite a number of boys have joined the Junior branch of the Y. M. C. A. One boy transferred $7.50 from one bank to the Pocasset National Bank, and not a few have money in the five cents savings bank. There are now on deposit sums ranging from one cent to one $6. This kind of work speaks for itself without further comment.

The Corporations Property

consists of 14 tables, 28 benches, one piano library of 300 books, 100 games, electric light fixtures, desks, chairs, benches, and carpenters tools, mottoes, pictures and guns. To replace them would cost not less than $500. and they are insured for that amount. All are in fairly good condition except the games, some of which have been in constant use for over three years.

Helping Hands.

In this long report I can truthfully say "the half has not been told". Upon the street, I can and do stop fights, whether the boys are members of the Club or not. The cigarette is often thrown away or hidden on my approach. Boys often run or sneak away when they have been stealing fruit, if they see me. I stop when boys are playing ball or marbles and watch and talk with them. Boys speak to me & ask questions which they would not of a stranger. At a safe distance they holler "Mr. Chew "gie me a smoke" but I do not take much notice of it. I am more feared than loved. But I am astonished at our boys after they have grown into young men at the very respectable way in which they greet me on the street. It reveals to me that these boys who were often displeased with me when I sent them out of the room for mis-conduct, are satisfied that I tried to use them right and can see it now they have more sense. My influence with them is not lost even now, and we are especially glad to have old members visit us.

I cannot express my feelings of gratitude to the Committee who have so kindly aided me. The friends who have given so generous support. We have come to stay; to stand still or falter would be cowardly. To go forward we constantly add a burden of responsibility which we invite others to share. To do our work faithfully we must have a dependance upon our Heavenly Father who will reward our

One who gives a cup of cold water in His name.
Resp submitted Thomas Chew.

Annual report of Superintendent appended)
Voted to be placed on file.

Report of Committee on Excursions.
To the Board of Directors of the Boys Club.

Through the kindness of our many friends we have been able to give 128 boys a days outing. This was a sail to Rocky Point, a lunch on the boat and a substantial dinner before leaving for home. The small sum of one dollar sends four boys to the Point, and takes care of each in this way. The hard times prevented our doing as we had hoped about our Summer Excursions, for we had planned something a little more for the fifty boys who were the most honorable during the year. We wish to thank all of the friends who have so kindly helped us, also our Superintendent Mr. Chew, in carrying out our wishes so faithfully.
The Club is growing in numbers and usefulness all of the time. We are hoping that some day we may have a building of our own, with baths of hot & cold water for the use of the boys.
This Club reaches a class of boys that no other does in the city.
The amount collected for the Excursion was $43. The amount expended $37.05 leaving a balance on hand of $5.95.
Our Christmas and Anniversary Celebrations were very successful. Mrs. Joseph Taylor has been one of our most interested workers. She has given the boys many

pleasant entertainments and we all feel very grateful to her for this kindness.

Yours Respectfully
Martha M. Brow.

Voted this report be accepted and placed on file.

The election of Officers for ensuing year was then in order. On motion of Mr. Albee the President appointed a committee of three (Mr. Chase, Dr. Abbe and Mr. Vestal) to present names for the Board of nine Directors, and to choose from that Board by ballot a Secretary and Treasurer. They presented the following names: Rev. E. A. Buck. Geo. A. Chase. John D. Flint James H. Bence. Wm C. Atwater. Mrs. E. H. B. Brow Mrs. Henry Davis. Mrs. A. B. French, & Miss Harriet H. Brayton.

It was voted the Secretary cast ballot for same representing vote of Corporation; and they were unanimously elected.

The Corporation then proceeded to ballot for Secretary and Treasurer. whole number of ballots cast seven: all of which were for Harriet H. Brayton Secretary James H. Bence Treasurer and they were severally declared elected.

On motion of Dr. Abbe it was voted that the Corporation authorize the Board of Directors to appropriate a certain sum from the funds (as seems advisable each year) for Summer Excursions for the Boys.

Voted to adjourn

Harriet H. Brayton
Secretary

At the Board of Directors meeting held Sept. 25th they chose by ballot from their number, Rev. E. A. Buck President Geo. A. Chase Vice President.

Third Annual Report of Corporation.

Six members (Mr. Chace, Mr. [illegible], Dr. Gifford, Mr. [illegible] and Miss Grafton, and Superintendent) were present at the third annual meeting of the Corporation of the Boys Club of Fall River, held September 17th 1884, at the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association, at 4.30 P.M.

The President was absent. The Vice President presided and read the call of meeting:

"The Annual Meeting of the Corporation of the Boys Club of Fall River will be held at the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association Wednesday September 17th at 4.30 P.M.

1st To hear and act upon the reports of the Secretary, Treasurer, Superintendent and Committees.

2nd To act upon the matter of amending the sixth article of the Constitution.

3rd To elect officers for the ensuing year.

4th To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Harriet H. Grafton
Fall River September 10th 1884. Secretary."

This was followed by reading of records of previous meeting by Secretary.

Voted to accept report of Secretary.

The Annual Reports of Secretary, Treasurer, and Superintendent, were read and approved and voted to be placed on file.

"Secretary's Annual Report.

The Board of Directors of this Corporation have held ten meetings during the year with an average attendance of [illegible]. At four of these meetings no business could be transacted for lack of quorum. At all of the meetings the Superintendent has been present to read his full monthly reports, every incident of note being recorded. During the year the Board have increased the Superintendent's salary from $750. to $900. [illegible] given him most cheerfully, in recognition of his valuable services, & as a testimonial to this Companionship -

In the Laundry, Bindery, Printing and Cobblers shops was found a slight [illegible] than the successful. If only one new branch of work is started each year, it shows we are growing and in the right direction.

The Young Boys Club have sent to our Superintendent for a copy of the Constitution, and were happy to help them to have been incorporated.

The Institution is greatly indebted to Miss Taylor for her continued efficient services. She has brought before the boys from time to time interesting matter bearing on the special work of [illegible] and formally to Criminals and kindly noted the results of the development and establishment of our boys.

The Board desire to express their thanks and appreciation to the many Citizens and various corporations who have contributed so generously in their several ways to the prosperity of the Inst.

While grateful to God for the intelligent and unselfish efforts, encouragement and assistance of our able president, we may hope that the good work will be as prosperous in good results as has been the past years.

Resp. submitted
Hannah H. Boynton Secretary.

Treasurer's Report.

Income.

Balance		$1,478.14	
Received by subscriptions	$2567.67		
Interest	27.27		
Exhibition table	35.25		
Contributed by Superintendent	$3.85		
		$2634.04	
			$4112.18

Expenditures

Salaries	$1167.00	
Rent	$461.00	
Lumber for carpentry classes	$55.00	
Electric lights and fixtures	$89.25	
Printing Press and fixtures	50.00	
Fall River Line and Providence S. B. Co.	34.30	
Printing blank books,	23.25	
Sandpaper, hardware, paint	14.17	
Whitewashing, Lettering	16.75	
Games	24.01	
Coal	22.15	
Beans brown bread and cake	17.53	
Postage	27.12	
Cobbler shop tools, leather, nails	12.78	
Furniture, chairs, tables. pictures	24.55	
Reception, Legerdemain entertainments	16.00	
Table fruit, candy, coffee, milk books, ets.	$196.85	
		$2251.73
		$1860.45

James H. [illegible]
Treasurer.

Superintendent's Annual report.
1884.

It is with pleasure that I present to you my fourth annual report.

Total membership	1,329 boys.
Gross attendance	27347 "
Average attendance evening	116 "
[illegible]	8737 "
Average " " " " " " "	37 "
Whole number of visitors and [illegible]	315 "
Largest number present at one time	450 "
Smallest " " " " "	29 "
Number [illegible]	755 "
" of expulsions [illegible]	13
" " deaths	2

Classes.

Whittling Class	25 members
Carpenters	12 "
Cobblers	5 "
Printers	6 "
Total in classes	48 boys.
Gross attendance	1324 "
[illegible] attendance	[illegible] "

Penny Savings Bank.

Balance	$129.65
Amount Deposited	171.78
Amount withdrawn	222.39
Amount of balance	79.04

No. of deposits 1,327
" " old depositors 386
" " new " 87

The hard times have caused some of our boys to withdraw their savings of previous years. Five suits of clothing, six pair of shoes, four hats, thirteen other parts of boys clothing, besides stockings, neckties, shirts, suspenders etc. have been purchased with their savings. Others have bought medicine, [illegible], [illegible], have [illegible] redeposited in the city banks. Three boys have gone to [illegible], and paid from taken in order. Many withdrawals have been for good and useful purposes which the punctiliousness of the boys' parents would not let me give. We have improved our banking system so that the coming year we shall pursue better and more definite methods.

Membership.

Our membership is made up of boys from seven to nineteen years of age. They come from the same localities as before, and in the same proportion are born in [illegible], or foreign countries are fathers or mothers.

Classes.

Carpentry.

This class has done good work during the season, and been longer in session than ever before. Besides making useful articles for themselves, they have erected a partition, and built benches for the [illegible] class, a rack for games, a platform, and outside [illegible], for which they were paid twenty-five dollars. There is always something to be made and we feel we have a good deal of pride in their work.

Printing.

This class of six boys have been very useful in printing membership tickets, circulars, notices, etc. We may look for much better work next season when we shall have a more competent instructor in this [illegible].

Military Drill.

A company of twenty boys were formed and have carefully drilled on Monday evenings from eight to nine o'clock. The interest was good during the cold weather but fell off near the close of the season. A few have become competent soldiers and will [illegible] depend upon them to take hold this during year. We are indebted to the [illegible] [illegible] for instructing them. It requires more than ordinary patience to keep [illegible] kind of boys interested because of their undisciplined life.

Rubbers.

There is no question but that a boys feet ought to be kept warm in the life. When it can be done with nothing but a pair of ordinary rubbers, or with [illegible] [illegible] though so that the feet touch the ground. Consequently we take the shoes from their feet and mend them before they go home. Sometimes we have to find shoes for them altogether as theirs are beyond repair. Occasionally for lack of time, a boy goes home with one shoe mended and the other not: but that is made right the next evening. We have repaired shoes for mothers and sisters as well, at the request of the boys. Twenty pair of shoes were mended during the season. We need an additional bench to keep pace with the work and it will be needed the coming year.

Entertainments and Talks.

We have been especially favored with good entertainments and talks. On Thanksgiving and Patriots' Day we had "Athletic" contests. St. Patricks Day the "[illegible] Chorus" in costume, entertained us with songs. The juniors of the Y. M. C. A. gave a "[illegible] [illegible]". The [illegible] Dramatic Club performed a temperance drama, "The Lost Loaf" We held a "Mock Election" with great success, but with contrary results to the real election of a few weeks before. Hon. [illegible] Read [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] greatly [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] school "talked" and showed some interesting experiments in chemistry. At Christmas we had an extra attractive and gave two entertainments.

At the "Anniversary" we had a special time. Over 400 boys were fed on beans, brown bread and Coffee. In the musical part of the entertainment we were assisted by various Y.P.S.C.E. The First Congregational Church Young peoples society brought Mrs. Franklin. Miss Lottie E. G. Cook, Mrs. Dr. Mackenzie Mr. C. H. Haughwout, to entertain us. Mrs. Joseph Taylor and Miss Annie Nichols, and Miss Mary L. Holmes, kindly took charge of one or more entertainments.

In addition to those already mentioned on evenings when it was bitter cold or rainy and but a few boys present we have put on our kettle and made a cup of hot coffee for each boy. In that way we gave 228 cups of coffee and 228 pieces of pie, doughnuts or cookies to the boys!

During the summer sixty one boys were taken to Rocky Point and given a dinner. Games of base-ball, bathing & other pleasures were indulged in. Nine boys were taken to Nantasket and provided with dinner and tea.

New Plans.

During the summer our plans of work for the coming season have been enlarged. After Oct. first we shall be able to do for the clothing of our boys what the cobbler shop does for their shoes. A woman will be employed to repair their clothes or show them how to do it. The object being to care for their health and if possible increase their pride in being neat. A special room has been engaged for this purpose and will be called the sewing room. The loan of a sewing machine has been promised. If in the future our boys should be in such distress as to suffer hunger and possibly at times we shall be ready to supply meals with a loaf of bread and a knife, sewing and mending as well.

Our printing class is getting ready for printing a monthly paper of four pages which will contain matter interesting to our subscribers and boys. It is intended for free distribution to the boys and for sale to their friends. Subscribers of one dollar or more will be given a copy.

An effort will be made to interest the boys in buying a stereopticon. Were their dimes from each boy saved it would cost no more than it could be given by the present boy. They would appreciate it more if it were their own and by buying or borrowing slides, they would be able to see more pictures in one season than they ever saw before. Contributors of one dime would be furnished with a ticket for his sister or mother at stereopticon entertainments.

Medals.

A medal of gold or silver will be given to the most regular attendant if he is well behaved and keeps his hands and face clean. Another one will be given to the boy who shows the best general improvement during the year. We expect some lazy boy may be stimulated to work, and truant to attend school regularly by this offer.

We will pay to our carpenters, our cobblers and our printers a small sum for their work by way of encouraging them to be regular at the classes, and faithful and careful at their work. A corresponding deduction to be made for carelessness and irregular attendance. I hope to have the superintendents of all the different boys' clubs spend a day with us soon, to confer about the work and devise ways and means of making our clubs more increasingly effective. (If the outlook in business were better I should like to suggest that next Christmas and each Christmas time hereafter, until the end is accomplished, an appeal should be made by us for contributions to our building fund. Our present rooms are sometimes inadequate, and ways of doing great good are missed because of a lack of facilities. Perhaps the time has not yet arrived to send out our appeal, but the boys and men of Fall River will not neglect it when it does come. The season of 1884, & 1885 has opened with increased interest. In three weeks 712 different boys became members, and there has been an aggregate attendance of more than one thousand boys each week. Of this number 537 boys have been members before and 175 boys came for the first time.)

Conclusion.

This brief report will supplement that of last year. Will interest in this work last? are questions which have doubtless arisen in your minds as they have to others. Yes, it will last, it will hold out so long as we supply a real need. We have 174 persons [illegible] annually to contribute to our support. Five years ago subscriptions amounted annually to less than $150: the past year we received $260. If we get good boys we get good men. Our criminal classes are to a great degree supplied from boys who are left on and about the [illegible] homes, who [illegible] the lack of any comfortable place to stay, or any healthful occupation or amusement, be more subject to temptation and evil influence. For this class of boys we offer warmth, comfort, amusement, and instruction, a helping hand when in need, a friendly interest in them at all times. Our aim is to develop their better natures and make them good citizens. Every tax payer has an interest in our work. Streets and sewers and lights are not so heavy a public burden as are [illegible], thieves and crime.

Respectfully submitted
Thomas Chew.

The next business was the second article of the call: Amending of Article VI of Constitution. Dr. Gifford moved the recommendation submitted by Board of Directors be adopted, and the first clause of article VI read:

At any one meeting of the Corporation five members shall constitute a quorum. The Board of Directors may determine by a majority vote what number of its members shall constitute a quorum.

Voted to proceed to election of officers for ensuing year. On motion of Mr. Atwater the Chairman appointed a Committee of three, Mr. Atwater, Dr. Gifford and Mr. Chew to present names for Board of nine Directors, and the Corporation to choose from that Board by ballot a Secretary and Treasurer. The Committee presented the following names. Rev. E. A. Buck: George A. Chace. John D. Flint. Wm. C. Atwater. James H. Bence. Mrs. Henry Davis. Mrs. A. B. French. Mrs. E. H. B. Brown. Harriet H. Brayton. It was voted the Secretary cast ballot for same representing the vote of Corporation, and they were unanimously elected. The Corporation then proceeded to ballot for Secretary and Treas-

urer, whole number of ballots cast six - all of which were for
Harriet H. Brayton Secretary
James H. Buffee Treasurer.
and they were severally declared elected.
Voted to adjourn.

Harriet H. Brayton
Secretary.

Fourth Annual Report of Corporation.

Fourteen members of the Corporation (Mr. Chace, Mr. Flint, Mr. Almy, Dr. Adams, Mr. [illegible], Mr. Frank Andrews, Mr. Horton, Dr. Gifford, Mr. Benj. Gifford, Mr. [illegible] [illegible], Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Davis, Thomas Chew and Miss H. H. Brayton) of the Boys Club of Fall River, together with the Superintendent were present at the Fourth Annual meeting held September 16th 1885, at the Club rooms at 4.30 P.M.

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1885

In the absence of the President, the Vice President presided (Mr. Geo. A. Chace) prayer offered by Dr. Adams and the call of meeting read by Secretary.

The Annual Meeting of the Corporation of the Boys Club of Fall River, will be held at the Club rooms - Vermont Block, Pleasant St. Wednesday September 16th 1885, at 4.30 P.M.

1st To hear and act upon the report of the Secretary, Treasurer, Superintendent and Committees
2nd To elect officers for ensuing year.
3rd To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Harriet H. Brayton
Secretary

Fall River Sept. 9th 1885.

This was followed by reading records of previous meeting by Secretary.

Voted to accept report of Secretary.

Annual Report of Secretary.

At the close of our [illegible] year it is wise to look over our records, that we may know how much of good has been accomplished, and note our mistakes. The Boys Club of Fall River occupies a prominent place among the charitable institutions of our city. It appeals to every individual of our city, who knows the possibilities of a boy, and the entire absence of proper example, and training that many receive in their homes. September '85 begins a new year of our work.

Looking back we may see failures, and lost opportunities, but we also find much to encourage us.

The Board of Directors have held eight meetings during the year, with an average attendance of four.

Article VI of the Constitution was amended at the last annual meeting to constitute 3 instead of 5 members present a quorum, for the transaction of business. This change has enabled the Board to transact what business was necessary at each meeting during the year.

According to Article II of Constitution three persons have been invited during the year by Board of Directors to become members of the Corporation. One has complied with the request of signing the Constitution.

The first copy of "Our Boys" was published in October. It does great credit to the printing class, and has helped to keep the work of the Club before the public. [illegible] Copies of this paper have been sent to every contributor of $1 or more to the Treasury.

The Sewing-room was opened in the early winter and has proved of valuable aid. The duties of the seamstress have been varied and often trying. She has patiently done her part and much of the personal tidiness of the clothing of the boys has been due to her administration. She has given words of encouragement to all.

The door-keeper, and librarian have served the Club [illegible] mation work acceptably. The Instructors in the different departments have shown themselves faithful to the demands made upon them, and have worked in harmony with the Superintendent.

Faithful and efficient as our Superintendent has been, it would greatly aid and encourage him, if the friends of these boys, would visit the rooms oftener and see in what ways the work could be extended.

Something in the way of a gymnasium might suggest itself, dormitories, swimming tank, baths, lunch room, grounds for sports, a country home and above all a permanent city home.

All this means larger contributions to our Treasury, which doubtless would be readily furnished if those our friends knew, as do the workers here, the needs in these directions.

For the superintendent's report as full as it is – tells but a small part of the good we believe has been accomplished during the year, and with additional facilities what could be accomplished in the future.

Harriet W. Brooks
Secretary.

Voted report of Secretary be accepted and placed on file.

Treasurer's Annual Report.

Balance	$720.45	
Received	$2628.16	$3348.61
Expenditures		2654.21
Balance		$694.40

Building Fund			$1045.50
Total		$1739.90	
Paid since Sept. 12th		$56.	
Total		$1795.90	

Subscriptions unpaid in

1 Subscription		@	$250.
4	"	"	50.
8	"	"	25.
3	"	"	20.
4	"	"	15.
29	"	"	10.
167	"	"	5.
1	"	"	4.
13	"	"	3.
110	"	"	2.
477	"	"	1.
Interest			$18.12.
Special			14.16
1 "			$9.09
"			1.70
"			.10

Voted, Treasurers report be accepted and placed on file.

Superintendents Annual Report.
Who are these 1430 boys constituting our membership? One out of ten are without father and mother. Many of the fathers are lazy or drunkards. Nearly all are poor. Their homes are located where evil does not care to conceal itself. By birth and environment their lot is miserable. They have a desire to get all that they can since they are often strangers to gratitude. They are French Canadians. Jews. Irish. & English. About seven tenths were born in Fall River, and are here for us to help in making

good citizens. When we remember that our doors are always wide open to the worst boy in [illegible], freely and lovingly, if he will only [illegible] himself to these few rules. "That he wash his hands and face if they are dirty" "Say "Please" when he asks for any thing" "Loud talking is forbidden and also the use of tobacco" This is all we ask of him. In return he has books, games, entertainments and excursions, and if he wishes can join the classes.

Results.

There are many young men today who have a grateful appreciation of what was done for them. I can see changes in many boys since they first came to us. Nearly every boy who comes into our police court have been sometime or other members of this club. However they have been of those kind which would not obey the simple rules I have mentioned. This statement I make conservatively and with proof. "That not one boy who has attended one or more nights each week during the past season, has been arrested, during the past year." The criminals do come from the class of boys we reach. How many are thus prevented from joining the criminal class I cannot say but I believe they are not few in number.

As our boys grow up into young men we can only advise them for their way to go. Whether our influence be small or great, when I find a boy bringing his friend or his brother I take courage.

Sometimes we have two, three, and four boys from the same family. Our Savings bank has been the means of helping many a poor boy to clothing and shoes and even bread. Many an orphan child had his clothes mended.

Boys smoking cigarettes have been spoken to, and in every way possible our influence has been used for the best interest of the boys. We have nearly reached the limit of our work in our present rooms and also in our expenditures. The following new plans are in preparation. This room is to be open to cripples for four evenings each week. There is to be a class in architectural drawing one evening each week, and members of the Carpenters class are to have first choice. There is to be a mechanical class class with the intention of making a patent hose-nozzle, but not confined to that strictly. Baths will surely be provided. And an entertainment every Saturday night. Men and women who have interested themselves in this enterprise by contributions ought to come and see how it works. I believe we are making better men brightening many lives, saving money for our city and State and pleasing God.

Membership 1430.

Aggregate attendance	29,946
" " reading	9,700
" washing	1,362
[illegible]	[illegible]

Aggregate Deposits	1310
Amount of "	$168.84
" " Withdrawn	128.33
Balance	40.51
	$118.12

Classes

Printers	6
Carpenters	12
Cobblers	2
Shorthand	22.
Military Co.	21.
	62 boys.

Shoes repaired 66 pr

Articles of clothing made and repaired 112. These figures exceed any previous years record. Contrasting similar statistics from the reports of other clubs we stand the first in Massachusetts. and are second only to Bridgeport in Connecticut. Our aggregate attendance to date is nearly 130,000 boys.

Respectfully submitted
Thomas Chew.

Voted Superintendents report be accepted and placed on file.

On motion of Mr. Flint, voted to proceed to election of Board of nine Directors, and officers for ensuing year. Mr. Horton moved the Secretary cast a ballot for the same Board of Directors, that served the past year, representing the vote of the corporation, and Rev. E. A. Buck, George A. Chace, James H. Bence, John D. Flint, Wm. C. Atwater, Mrs. E. H. B. Brown, Mrs. A. B. French, Mrs. Henry Davis, and Harriet H. Brayton were unanimously elected.

The Corporation then proceeded to ballot for Secretary and Treasurer.

Voted Mr. Chew cast ballot for Harriet M. Brayton Secretary, representing the vote of the corporation, and she was unanimously elected.

Voted Mr. Chew cast ballot for James H. Bruce Treasurer representing the vote of corporation, and he was unanimously elected.

Before the meeting adjourned, the Superintendent expressed an earnest desire, that some arrangement should be made by which the boys could have a temporary home for a few weeks during the summer months, and also a home in the city for permanent occupation.

Voted to adjourn.

Harriet M. Brayton
Secretary.

Fifth Annual report of Corporation.

Eight members of the Corporation (Rev. E. A. Buck, James M. Bence, Wm C. Atwater Mrs. E. H. B. Brow, Mr. Vestall, Mrs. James Buffington, Thomas Chew, Harriet M. Brayton) of the Boys Club of Fall River were present at the fifth Annual meeting held September 21st 1896 at the Club rooms at 4.30 P. M.

The President in the chair.

The following call of meeting was read by Secretary

"The Annual Meeting of the Corporation of the Boys Club of Fall River will be held at the Club rooms, Vermont Block 215 Pocasset St. Monday September 21st 1896 at 4.30 P. M.

1st To hear and act upon the reports of Secretary, Treasurer, Superintendent and Committees.

2nd To elect officers for ensuing year.

3rd To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Harriet M. Brayton
Secretary.

Fall River September 14th 1896."

This was followed by reading records of previous meeting.

Voted to accept the report of Secretary.

Annual report of Secretary.

The year just closed has been a succession of Red Letter Days in the calander of the Boys Club of Fall River. Had we been told at our last annual meeting that the hopes the Superintendent then expressed for the future, would be realized within one year, it would have seemed incredible. As expressed in one of the reports of the Superintendent "God has given us our hearts desire ten years in advance of our most sanguine expectations".

We have had many contributions to the work. Two of these are of such vital importance to the future growth of the club, that they especially deserve a prominent recognition in our report.

The gifts of the farm in Freetown by Mr. Mrs. George H. Dean, and of the new building now in process of erection on Anawan St. together with the lot on which it stands to be transferred on its completion by Mr. Mathew Chaloner Durfee Borden of New York.

The Superintendent wrote an article for one of our local newspapers in September 1885 saying he would take at his own expense, a small farm at the Narrows, where he would reside, and take there a few boys at a time, who needed out door life, healthy exercise, and home influence. A few days later a communication was received by our President from Mr. George H. Dean offering the Dean Homestead of 140 acres, situated in Freetown, as a gift to the corporation from Mrs. Dean and himself with the stock on the same consisting of two horses, three cows, poultry and a few farming implements. A committee of gentlemen was appointed by the Board of Directors Messrs. Flint Buck and Atwater to look over the ground and see if it would meet the needs of the

club, before accepting the gift.
In December a deed was given by Mr. Dean. The more one has, the more one finds they can use, and in the latter part of the year, steps were taken to purchase the "Job Dean Farm" adjoining, which was for sale for $1000. This farm was in a higher state of cultivation and had a larger house, which would better accommodate the boys.

*Sixteen friends of the Club contributed cheerfully and promptly. A member of our Board gave the first $100. The farm was purchased in January. The corporation is now in possession of 223 acres of land situated in the town of Freetown.

Mr. G. A. Chace*
Mr. Harley
" Geo. Hawes
" John S. Brayton
Miss S. S. Brayton
and a friend
$100. each.
Mr. Melvin Holmes
Mr. Staffords.
Dr. Thompson
Mr. Job Leonard
Mrs. A. S. Tripp
Mrs. Edmund
Chace $50 each
Mr. James Milne
" ~~Geo.~~ Darol.
Edward Stalling
Mr. J. J. Sexton
$25. each
Mr. C. A. Bassett
$10.

Late in the year 1885, it was rumored that the club was to receive another gift, that of a new building for the local work, to be given at completion by Mr. Matthew Chaloner Durfee Borden of New York, and that a lot had been purchased on Anawan St. These rumors speedily began to materialize.
Later Mr. Borden communicated with the directors through the President and architect with regard to plans for building.
Work was begun June 1st and we are justified in indulging great expectations for the future.

Fifteen meetings of the Board of Directors have been held during the year with an average attendance of five.
At the first meeting of the Board the last week of September '85, Rev. E. A. Buck was chosen President of the Corporation and

George A. Chace Vice President.
It was voted to hire the superintendent for the twelve months at $1200.

Our present quarters were much improved last September by introducing pipes for hot and cold water. The membership so much increased at the opening that it was found desirable to secure the services of an assistant. One of the older boys has served in that capacity at a salary of $3.50 a week.

During the year thirty-six of our citizens who have contributed $5. or more to the club work, have been invited by the Board of Directors to become members of the corporation by signing the constitution; seven have complied with the request and we now have a membership of forty-six.

The classes during the year have been, Printing, Carpentry, Cobbling and Mending. The members have shown marked improvement, and great credit is due the instructors. The paper "Our Boys" continues to keep hundreds of families in our city informed as to the work of the Club.

In the early summer before the farm house was opened for the boys, it was thought wise to ask the Young Peoples Societies of our different churches, and a few individuals, if they would give a bed towards the furnishing of the house; to cost $7.50 complete with mattress. As a result beds were taken by the following: Unitarian Society

-tors through Mrs. Edmund Chace: Young People of Unitarian Society, 1st Congregational Young Peoples Society. Fowler Church Young Peoples Society. 1st Methodist Epworth League, Baptist Temple C. E. Society. Friends Society, Presbyterian C. E. S. Tuesday Club, Church of the Ascension, Central Congregational Christian Endeavor Society. Franklin St. C. E. Society: Mrs. Dr. Davis. Mrs. Henry Dawes. Miss Julia Read. Mrs. Underwood. Chas. & Louise Davol. and Miss Sarah C. Brayton one bed each. Also contributions from other church organizations: Ladies Benevolent Society of 1st Cong. Church $25 in cash and bedding. Junior Missionary Society of First Cong. & Central Churches sheets & pillow cases. Ladies Society of Fowler church and Baptist Temple bedding. St. Marks Church dishes, St. Johns Church $15.50 cash. Sunday School Class of young men $5.80 towards provisions.

Fertilizer was another important article needed to bring up the farm. By personal solicitation 21 responded to the call. Fertilizer was purchased at a cost of $228.

With the additional requirements of the farm, the work of our Superintendent has been greatly increased, and few can appreciate the difficulties he has met and overcome. He has put his shoulders to the wheel in every department, and we come to the Annual meeting with the local work in a prosperous condition: the financial side of the work satisfactory: and we have an encouraging

Dr. Davis	$20
friend	$20
Mr. Dassance	$2
F. O. Dodge	$10
L. Andrews	$10
enry Earle	$5
Mr. Warner	$10
" Edward Baker	$10
Byron Antley	$10
Ed Gifford	$5
E. S. Brown	$20
Andrew Borden	$10
Dodge	$10
Frank Brighton	$10
Darius Buffington	$3
Luther	$5
S. B. Chase	$10
C. A. Baker	$5
Theodore Borden	$5
Edward Adams	10
Friend	$38

outlook for the coming year. The Club really has prospered most generously but there is danger that our former contributors will fail to consider, that our additional facilities for work require larger rather than smaller contributions.

Respectfully submitted
Harriet H. Brayton

Sept. 21-1896.
Voted report of Secretary be accepted and placed on file.

Treasurers annual report.

Balance			$1694.40
Total contributions	$2235.20		
Printing	1.25		
Subscription "Our Boys"	.25		
Sale of Farm Produce	5.20		
Sale of poultry	30.00		
Sale of horse	50.00		
Interest on deposit	$99.11 =	2421.01	
			$4115.41

Expenditures

Salaries	$1656.50
Rent	540.00
Light	54.50
Stationary games &c	87.06
Postage	47.52
Loan'd farm	298.38
Baths. plumbing &c	110.40
Painting	39.56
Hardware	52.33
Y.M.C.A. boiler stove-piping	35.00
Coal	24.20
Directory	2.00
Medals	8.26
Expenses to New York	10.00
Entertainments	68.79
Cleaning &c	5.38

Sundries $13.52 -
Balance $1050.38
$4115.41

Report of Treasurer accepted and placed on file.

Superintendents annual report.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is impossible to avoid repeating many of the things which have been said in previous reports. It is the same work carried out each year. New schemes are adopted and others worn out are dropped. If it were not for the fact that new boys come in and old step out the work would become mechanical. To look back to our first night in 1880 does not seem long, but when we reflect that some of the boys who were members of the club then are now married men, taking an active part in lifes affairs, it does seem as though we were moving. My experience teaches me that the boys who are benefited most are those who come in under twelve years of age. The cases are by no means rare where we have two three and four boys from the same family. The youngest boy will ofcourse stay the longest and get the most benefit from the club. There is now here and there a boy who has grown to young manhood under such influences as the club could exercise over him. Most of these are doing well. Some are in the U. S. Navy. Very many are in ordinary occupations, doing quietly their work but attracting no special attention. As long as their names do not appear in the police records I feel fairly well satisfied.

I have had to wait seven years for the testimony of two school teachers, who expressed to me their appreciation of our work, how it changed some of their scholars, mentioning their names of some of the very worst boys, coming from the most miserable homes. One of them said when she would ask them some questions, outside of school studies, the members of the club were the readiest to answer. Asked how they knew: "Why theres a book in the boys club tells all about it."

The statistics of the attendance are as follows:-

Membership	1516.
Agregate attendance	33500.
" No. reading	10727
" boys washing	4209
number of visitors	156

Penny Bank.

Depositors for the first time	69
Amount of Deposits	$241.96
" withdrawn	$195.24
Balance for year	$46.72

As usual very many of the withdrawals were for necessary clothing and shoes. Two or three were going to purchase bicycles, and some others have transferred their money to our city banks at our request. In first cases I make the first deposit for them. The way after that is plain to them, and after one or two deposits it becomes easy.

Excursions.

The special excursions for the year were in August 1895 and in May 1896. I took a party of four to Roger Williams Park in Providence R.I. Two parties were taken to Rocky Point, in all about seventy five boys. Ten boys were taken to Boston for one day. We started at 5.30 in the morning and got home at 7.30 in the evening. Visits were paid to the Boston Herald building, Public Library, Charlestown Navy Yard and Bunker Hill. Finally we witnessed a base ball game in Boston. We were under obligations to the President of the Boston Base Ball Club for complimentary tickets, to the railroad company for reduced fares and a lady friend for money to pay all expenses.

In May a party of six boys visited New York City, spending the day in sight seeing. Of course we could not miss Barnums Circus which happened to be in Brooklyn at that time. The money for this outing was the earnings of the printing class. One of the boys nearly fourteen years of age, had never been on a railway train until he went with us.

In addition to the excursions there have been twenty entertainments. Some have consisted of songs recitations and music. Others have been illustrated talks, with the

aid of our own lantern. We had a graphophone exhibition in which the boys were very much interested. At Christmas we had a regular Concert Company
The "Williams Hand Bell Ringers"
At our anniversary we had an entertainment in which the boys took a share in the program and a much larger share of the supper 352 boys being present.
It seemed to be almost impossible to acknowledge all the assistance we have received from Young Peoples Societies and individuals. Often accompanying subscriptions are little notes like these: "I have some books" or "games" or "shoes" or "clothing" or "papers which you may have by calling at the house." We sincerely appreciate it all.

My aim is as far as possible, to have the boys entertain themselves instead of calling on those who are already over worked. All but two of the magic lantern entertainments were given by myself, the views being kindly loaned, without charge by Mr. Hadcock. The two others were lectures on the "civil war" and a "Trip to Ireland" by Rev. Mr. Norris of Somerset and Connolly of New Bedford.

At the last annual meeting I brought up as a suggestion for increasing our work the hiring of a small farm to carry on a work during the summer. We very early got a much larger farm than I anticipated: but rather unfortunately I had rented a place before the gift was known. This did not interfere with the plan at all, but made it a little inconvenient. I had set my hopes on three or four acres, but found myself in possession of 180 acres.

We took possession in November 1885. The following spring the house was painted inside, and the other house which was bought was painted also. How they were furnished our Secretary has told you. The plan which was laid out was to form a miniature city government. We had accommodations for twenty boys.

The first week in July we had seventeen boys, who elected a mayor, clerk, and four aldermen. The aldermen appointed a city messenger whose duty was to go for the milk once or twice to a farm about half a mile away. Without any direction from me they drew up the following rules:

1 Any boy refusing to do the work assigned him may be fined two cents.
2. Swearing the same.
3. Smoking cigarettes fined two cents.

They would have concerts in the evenings, sometimes a mock trial. At other times they would play games or read.

One of their especial pieces of work was to construct a sewer and lay pipe for about 200 feet. Others chopped wood, scoured knives and a few pulled weeds.

Most of these boys stayed two weeks. The plan worked very well indeed. But there was this lacking, which will not be found in our permanent plan, they had homes to which they could go, if we set them tasks which they thought were too severe. Many of these boys desired to stay longer, but that would be giving them more than their fair share, so I decided to bring others for a weeks stay. Each boy made his own bed. Two boys selected by themselves, were appointed to wash dishes after each meal, all the boys having an equal share. As they were only expected to work half a day, they had the afternoon for play. Sometimes they would pick berries and delegate some of their number to bring them to Fall River for sale. Some boys would sell their berries for five cents per quart cash and the speculators would sell for $.10 per quart.

Last week in June we had one boy - first week of July 17
Second " " " 12
Third " " " 9
Fourth " " " 5
First " " August 17
Sixty boys in all.

We have had two parties of thirteen boys for a day in September, and one other party goes next Saturday. Two of these boys were in poor health. There remains one boy whom we hope to keep, as he has no home and is incurably ill with Brights Disease. This sick boys brother has been with us several weeks and on account of his inability or unwillingness to get work, we have had him put in the U. S. Navy. We have heard from him, He does not like it, as well as he thought he would - The thing he most needed to learn was that he must depend upon himself, and not on others. The farm work pure and simple has been done very well. The crops are worth about $500. and we owe the Treasury of the Boys Club about $200. The future of the work is not in doubt. It will be slow. I think next Summer we will use both houses for the boys and perhaps during the Winter have one or two sleighing parties visit there. The house will be looked after during the Winter at no expense to the Club, and our one boy can stay there as long as it is best for him. Dr. Barnado of London started with one boy now he cares for 5000. children, We can afford to do the same, always having an eye open for really needy boys who can be sent there temporarily at any time, and permanently when the funds will allow. Every one of our Directors has had some special part in the work.

One contributed a cot, another $100. others bedding and one of U. S. flag -

New Building

I cannot say much directly about it. It is intended to be very fine, inside and out. The work is now proceeding very rapidly. It will be the only building that I know of devoted entirely to Boys Club work.

There need be no worry yet about the cost of running it, for if this splendid building is given to us we may feel sure the means will be provided.

My estimate of the cost of running it is about $4,000. per year. We shall have undoubtedly a membership of 2,000 boys, and an average attendance of 2000 each week, perhaps more. It is one of the best gifts our city could receive and it will be greatly appreciated.

In conclusion of this rather long report I must say that a very small part has been told.

New opportunities for our usefulness constantly occur. It was only last week that a gentleman asked me to look out for a boy. The father was to be away about six months. His wife is dead. The boy would board out, and my duty would be to see that he attends school, is properly clothed and cared for. I promised to do it. All bills will be paid by the man's employer. I have rescued one boy from jail: found one boy permanent employment. And others temporary places: visited some that were sick. clothed others: gave several talks in different churches: assisted by advise in forming a club in Cleveland Ohio. Received and given a helping hand to other organizations. I am more than ever impressed that we must go forward. The results will be shown in better citizens. What has been accomplished is very little towards what we can do. God is blessing us, and no harm can come as we go in the way he points out. With grateful appreciation of all that has been done for the boys

I respectfully submit this report.
Thomas Chew Superintendent.

Voted. the report of Superintendent be accepted and placed on file.
On motion of Mr. Atwater
voted the Annual reports be printed in pamphlet form for circulation.
Voted Mr. Atwater and Dr. Gifford be appointed a committee for same.

On motion of Mr. Bence voted to proceed to election to Board of nine Directors and officers for ensuing year.
It was moved the Secretary cast a ballot for the same Board of Directors that served the past year representing the vote of the corporation and Rev. E. A. Buck, Geo. A. Chace, James H. Bence, John D. Flint, Wm C. Atwater, Mrs. E. H. B. Brown. Mrs. A. B. French. Mrs. Henry Davis and Miss Harriet H. Brayton were unanimously

elected. The Corporation then proceeded to ballot for Secretary and Treasurer. Voted Mr. Chew cast ballot for Harriet H. Brayton Secretary representing vote of Corporation. Voted Mr. Chew cast ballot for James H. Bence Treasurer representing vote of corporation. and they were unanimously elected. Before the meeting adjourned the President referred to the death of Mr. James C. Eddy which sad event took place at his late residence in this city Friday September 18th. He offered the following tribute to his memory, to be placed upon our records:

"Mr. Eddy was one of the earliest members of our Corporation. He was deeply interested in the welfare of the Boys Club, and one of its firm supporters. His loss will be deeply felt in the city, where he was greatly beloved and universally esteemed."

Voted to adjourn

Harriet H. Brayton
Secretary.

The sixth annual meeting of the Corporation of the Boys Club of Fall River was held September 20th 1887, at the Young Mens Christian Association rooms at 4 P.m.
Fourteen members were present.
The President in the chair.
The following call of meeting was read by Secretary.

"Boys Club of Fall River.
The Annual meeting of the Corporation of the Boys Club of Fall River, will be held at the Young Mens Christian Association rooms, corner of No. Main and Pine Sts. Monday, September 20th 1897 at 4 P.m.
1st To hear and act upon the reports of the Secretary, Treasurer, Superintendent and Committees.
2nd To elect officers for the ensuing year.
3rd To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Harriet H. Brayton
Secretary.
Fall River September 13th 1887."

This was followed by reading records of previous meeting, which were approved and voted placed on file.

Annual report of Secretary.
On the first day of February 1890 the Boys Club was opened. In its appointments the comparison between 1890 and 1897 is marked. The one room on Third St. to the eve of entering a large new building entirely devoted to Boys Club objects. A membership of 844 in 1890 to 1803 in 1897.

The Club has been blessed from the begining in its whole-hearted public spirited, efficient and ever active superintendent.
It is he who has brought the club up to its present high standard and popularity.
The aim of the club has been and still is, the improvement of the moral, physical, and social nature of boys.
Let us look back to the first night of opening, and glance at the room which was to receive the 141 boys, waiting outside for admission.
The room was lighted by six reflector lamps. There was a piano, twelve tables with benches and a few mottoes on the walls. One little corner railed off for a library, which contained a book-case with 200 books and sixty-five games. Not far away, a few feet partitioned off a toilet room with two small hand-basins and a roller towel. We were truly thankful for all these conveniences. To some of the boys, they were novelties indeed, and if their faces showed pleasure then we will hope to gaze into them again on the opening night in the new building.

The President, Secretary, Tresurer and six Directors who were then chosen are yet in active service with three additional members. (on Rev. Mr. Grant's resignation Sept. 16th 1885 Mr. Wm C. Atwater was chosen to fill the vacancy) These nine directors are representatives from many of our larger churches.

Mr. Charles L. Holmes most courteously served as Treasurer during the first month of organization. When he resigned Mr. James W. Bence was elected his successor.

The work broadened, and after six months it was necessary to secure larger accomodations. In September 1880 the club moved into the rooms in Vermont Block, with which you are familiar.

The receipts for the first year were $1772.61 expenditures $1252.39 Membership 844.

June 6th, 1881 the club was incorporated. So the club has grown step by step, cautiously, but with inexpressible benefit to those who have been fortunate to be its members.

Henry Hart has served as janitor most acceptably from the begining.

The year 1886 was a memorable one in the history of the club. The two gifts received (one presented the other about to be) of the Dean Farm in Freetown, and the new building in our city. The farm has been the means of caring for the boys during the vacation season, and giving them hearty food and out door exercise. We leave the Superintendent to tell of the work hoped for in the new building. Have the hearts of these hundreds of boys been touched, are they more truthful, and honest, have they gained self respect, and have their habits been improved, since they became members of the club and under the influence of the Superintendent are questions that only can be answered by meeting with the boys, visiting their homes talking with their school teachers noticing their hearty "good morning" with hats raised, on the street, their tidier appearance, and their universal respect for their guide and counsellor.

The work of the past twelve months has been along no new lines.- The Directors feeling in this year of financial depression, it was wiser to take up no new branches of work, but to keep to the old and out of debt.

The success of the latter will be shown in the Treasurer's report.

The aggregate attendance opening week the middle of August was 1352. that surely showed eagerness on the part of the boys and their love for the club.

In January the Club lost by death one of its true friends. Mr. Geo. H. Dean. who had the year previous donated to the Boys Club, and given the deed of, the farm of his ancestors in Freetown: appropriate action was taken by the Board of Directors by placing upon their records a tribute to his memory.

Many acceptable gifts have been received the past year. 125 new books from Mr. Henry H. Eddy in memory of his father, this is to be called the James C. Eddy Memorial library. and over one hundred books from Mr. James C. Eddy's own library.

Henry Cabbott Lodge has presented to the Club five volumes of his own works.

Mr. A. Homer Skinner has repeated his generosity in loaning stereopticon slides for evening entertainments.

The Superintendent has addressed many of our local societies, the past Winter, bringing the work of the Boys Club to the front, and he has also visited Rich's Theatre with a police commissioners clerk in behalf of the boys to see if the rules were enforced, of not admitting any one under thirteen years of age without a parent or guardian.

During Lent Mr. Chew encouraged Protestants, Jews, and Catholics to attend the services of their several denominations and abide by their laws.

During the past four years, four gold medals have been given the boys – two to Irish boys, one to an English lad, and the fourth to a Jew.

Edward Quinn who received the medal this year made 76 deposits in the bank from January to April and his attendance was the best during the year.

The farm work and outings of the boys will be spoken of in their reports.

During the present Autumn it is expected the new building, to be presented by Mr. M. C. D. Borden of New York will be completed and dedicated. The Man watched its progress with interest during the year. It is said to be the finest, and only building in the country devoted to Boys Club work and it will indeed be a "light set upon a hill" All of this work cannot be continued without funds, but if members of the corporation citizens, and friends, will continue to give what they conscientiously feel to be their part toward making these boys true, honorable and trustworthy citizens, with the blessing of God we may confidently look forward to success.

Resp submitted
Harriet H. Brayton
Secretary.

Voted report of Secretary be accepted and placed on file.

Treasurers Annual Report.

1896

Sept. 21st. Balance	$1050.38	Superintendent	1200.00
Contributions	$2346.80	Assistants	338.70
Sale of Cows	50.00	Rent	340.00
O'Connell Club (Rent)	12.00	Supplies Groceries &c	157.29
Trans. from Farm Oct.	16.40	Farm	78.13
Interest on Deposit B.M.C.D. Trust Co	3.14	Hardware	66.91
		Light	55.41
		Postage	54.50
		Stationery Games	47.58
		Lumber	26.36
		Coal	21.15
		Painting	17.66
		13 wks. board J. Brennan 1.50	19.50
		Medals	5.15
		Sundries	16.00
		Miss H. H. Brayton money loaned	50.00
		Balance	984.38
	$3478.72		$3478.72

Voted Report of Treasurer be accepted and placed on file.

Annual report of Superintendent.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The following is a brief report for the season of 1886 and 1887.

No. of members enrolled	1803
" " boys present in the aggregate	38,825
" " " " reading	13 169
" " " washing hands and face	3 506
" " visitors	79
" " boys depositing in Savings bank for the first time	55
" " deposits made	804
amounting to	$196.98
Amount withdrawn	190.57
balance for year	$6.41

There have been 16 boys in the classes of printing and carpentry with an attendance of 441 times.

Membership.

If these 1803 boys were to pass before you in single file and someone should count them One, two, three, four, five, six, seven "fatherless," eight, nine, ten eleven, "motherless" while the 20th boy would be an orphan. Some have step fathers, and step mothers, it is true, but they are not always an advantage. If we take into account the children whose parents live apart, those that are in jail or insane and the average would pretty nearly hold good. A writer in a religious paper holding a position in a state institution, mentions these conditions as applying to most of the children sent to the reform and truant schools. Lack of parental control. is responsible for more children becoming criminals, than environment or the smallness of the family income. Being poor is not the disadvantage we think it is if the home life is right

We have for seven years or more tried to reach those boys whom we thought were in danger of crossing the line into crime or truancy. How we have succeeded no body can say. No boy was ever refused admittance to the club because he was too bad. If you take the occupation of the parents of these boys you will find that they are laboring men and a large proportion of the class, called unskilled laborers.

You will find only two boys out of the 1803 who have gone as far as the High School, and one of them we have had some little influence in getting there.

There is one other class of boys merged into the parentless class, perhaps, and those are the children supported in part by the city.

The boys Club tries to prevent two things: the increase of criminals and the increase of paupers.

This is a work that cannot be done in a day. Every attraction in the way of games, books. classes. entertainments that we offer is with that end in view. What I mentioned last year is true of the past year, no boy who is in the habit of attending the Boys Club regularly is ever brought into court for truancy or crime. We cannot point to what is real success in the work. My idea of failure in it would be in having to do this kind of work for the children of these boys.

Pardon me for dwelling so long on this point, but if the Boys Club is doing a necessary work for the good of this city through its boys, it should know the needs, employ the right methods, at the right time, avoid doing harm, and strive for permanent change in the character of its membership.

Reading.

As you will notice one-third of our boys spent a part of the time in reading. We have often had our limited space crowded with boys and books. A noticeable thing is that after the newness of playing games wears off a larger proportion of a boys interest is in books. They read more. When the close of the season comes a larger proportion read than at the beginning.

Besides what books we have in the rooms, thousands of papers are given away to be carried home. Individual boys are accorded special privileges in taking books home. We keep in touch with some of our older boys through the magazines and papers we are able to furnish them. We need more books. Those we now have, have been in constant use for seven years. With the exception of Mr. Eddy's recent gift.

Home Libraries.

We have began to loan bookcases

and books to groups of boys in the outlying sections of our city. We have only two of these yet and only one bookcase has had a fair trial. The boys reported that it worked well. Nearly all the books were taken out. We desire to place these books in the worst class of homes where there is a boy who will take care of them. The boys are "grouped" in that street or section and at certain times they go to the librarians home and get the book they need. The cases are made attractive enough to be an ornament to the home. There is a risk of loss of books and case, there is a great gain if we succeed in interesting boys in one another. Helps them to spend their leisure time in a right way and the attractions of the broad-way will not have much power over them. About 30 books are placed in these libraries $5. will fill one. Our carpenter class have made the cases to the present time.

Boys Washing.

3,506. It does not tell all the story. Our facilities were limited, and time, soap and water is no object when a boy wants to look pretty. There must be some story to tell in the home. I don't think that there is in the poorest home, a father or mother who would not notice a boy constantly coming home with a clean face. The example is worth something.

Savings Bank.

$196.98 saved. $196.57 spent. This means a good deal. It was saved from smoke, candy and shows. It was spent for clothing, shoes, food, and many another useful article, which they must have gone without. A few cents each week, meant a suit of clothes for some boy. Through the hard times of the Winter and Spring these savings came in useful for the families use. Some boys will put in a nickel one night and want it out the next. By & by he can save for a whole week, then a month, and some day it will become a fixed habit.

Entertainments.

The form of entertainment has been similar to past years. We have used our own lantern several times. On Saturday evenings we have had pool games. The interest in this game was very intense and drew large crowds of boys. There must have been as many as twenty different teams. The Boys Club team developed into a very strong one, and were never defeated by boys of their size. A club entered the tournament in the Casino. It was amusing to watch the interest of the boys about the bulletin board, in the club room, for the latest report of the games at the Casino. What good was pool in the development of these boys? Well in the boys club room they played without fighting or swearing. The referee was never escorted to the door by the police. They controlled their passions which in another place they would not have done. (The Spectators left a quantity of pea-nuts shells that would have been thrown into the streets)

Dean Farm.

The work this year has been much more satisfactory than that of last year. No attempt on our part has been made to do farm work. Repairs have been made to some of the out-buildings and a new ceiling has been put in the kitchen of the Dean Farm. Joseph Brown a young man who was homeless and in poor health, left us on March 23rd, for the Fade River Hospital in an apparently hopeless condition. Having been with us nearly a year and nine months. Edward H. Brown was transferred from the farm to Newport, R.I. at the close of last season. He has since made us a visit, in the garb of an apprentice of the U.S. Navy. His conduct is reported as good; the opposite of his report on shore. He is now away having been transfered to the regular Navy. Duncan Stalker came to us April 2. of this year. His father was an intemperate man, who had beaten him a great many times. He was taken away whilst the father was absent, in jail I think. And we have cared for him until the last of August. His mother was dead. The father came to see him once, and once wrote us a threatening letter. He had no legal control of the boy but the boy cried, and wanted to stay with us. I wrote to the father, and he gave his consent for the boy to stay during the Summer and apologising for his previous letter. The boy made a visit to his father in Westerly, R. I. and found that he was temperate and working steadily, and decided he would stay with him. We heard from him to-day and he is doing well.

There have been three parties from the club to the farm during the Summer. One party numbering 46 consisted of boys and girls went in a party wagon. The girls were for the most part sisters of the boys who were there for the week. All had a very pleasant time. Two parties of nearly 100 boys, in each party, went by rail and walking the mile and one half to the farm. Games of ball and races were indulged in. A lunch was provided on reaching the farm, and a more substantial meal was served in the afternoon. We had the assistance of young ladies from the Christian Church in Assonet. The railroad Company brought the boys home in style - a special car.

There were in all about 100 boys among the weekly boarders. A few could stay only two or three days. about 85 staying a whole week. The largest number at one time was 17 boys. This year we used both houses, limiting the number to be placed in each house to ten boys. This division of labor was a little more expensive than last year, but it was very much more satisfactory.

Beyond the eating of a few green apples no damage was done to the boys. A few panes of glass broken and walls knocked down is the damage to the farm, excepting a couple of chickens killed by the boys trying to make them fly like pigeons.

We had a variety of boys. Some were sick, some were lame and not all were good. It was the exception when the two lots were good at the same time. I only know of two boys out of the number who did not want to go again.

Two boys were going, one Monday morning, and I wanted them to come back. I sent another boy to tell them, promising him an excursion ticket to Newport if he succeeded. He did well, he was taken captive to the farm and I had three boys instead of two. But very few visitors came to see us, and they were mostly members of the board of directors. We were very glad to have a visit from Mrs. [illegible]. If I speak regretfully of the small number of visitors it may be explained in part perhaps that we were always richer when they left us. We were not forgotten by those who did not come however, and we sincerely thank all who in any way helped us. With this experience we have gained we hope to do better next year.

Excursions.

During the summer two excursions were made to Newport.

about one hundred was in each party. The expenses of these excursions and of the parties to the farm were secured through the aid of the Fall River Daily Herald.

In round numbers our Summer work should read:

200 boys taken to Newport, R. I. for 1 day.
250 " " " Dean Farm " " "
85 " " " " for one week.

Our New Building.

In the near future we are to begin work in the finest equipped building in our country. We have not earned it, or perhaps deserved it. we can only prove our deep appreciation of the gift by using it wisely and making it a blessing to those for whom it is designed. There is a deep concern among our friends about the cost of maintaining the club in its present surroundings. This is a proper feeling and ought to be frankly met, and removed if possible. To me it is not the most serious difficulty, we have to contend with. Our financial policy of the past has been to live within our income. When it seemed likely we should not have funds to meet our obligations, there has always been a curtailment of expenses. There have been times in our history when we could have died quite easily and not a solitary creditor would have been left to mourn our loss. We have never passed the hat twice in one year. Our directors have never been called upon to make up a deficiency. No concert or entertainment was

ever given for our benefit.
What we have received has come straight from the pockets of our subscribers and they have felt it to be either a pleasure or a burden to contribute. I hope this policy will continue it is the best in the end. We will keep the "No Debt" sign where every business man can see it. For the past few years the annual contributions for the club have been about $2500. The extra expence in the new building will be from $1000. to $1500. more or about $4000 (estimated) We feel sure that our subscriptions will not decrease, they may possibly increase to $3000. The membership in the club will probably reach 2000 boys. Each one would undoubtedly be willing to pay one cent each week for the privileges, which would give us $1000. a year. We have now applications from nearly 50 persons to use the gymnasium during the day when not required by the club at $1.00 a month each. This source would perhaps bring us $500. per year, or from all sources $4,500. I may have under-estimated our expenses. I have purposely omitted some sources of revenue. There are in our city, I firmly believe, some stewards of the Master who will invest $5000. each in an endowment fund to carry on this work. We could wish all who do that long life, and with the hope that they would never regret it. If you are not all convinced that our financial way is clear. I hope your fears have diminished and that you will wait until we come

to the bridge before we cross it.

Routine Work.

The methods of work will have to be very much different from those we have been using. There will be practically two clubs. Those attending school and those working having separate reading and game rooms. The school boys (which of course will be the younger boys) are to go home at 9 o'clock, and the others may stay until 9.30 or ten o'clock. The gymnasium & swimming pool will be opened to the younger boys from 7 to 8 o'clock evenings and on Saturday mornings. The pool will be reserved for working boys Saturday afternoons and from 8 to 10 evenings. If there should be a desire on the part of any boys to bathe on Sunday mornings I should be inclined to grant it, if they came before 9 o'clock. With a division something like this we could easily accommodate 300 to 400 boys each evening perhaps, averaging an attendance of 2000 boys each week. There can be water polo games in the swimming pool, basket ball in the gymnasium talks and entertainments in one hall, besides the bowling alleys, and classes, library and games. Five hundred boys will not tax our new club, as two hundred boys did the old club. I am very thankful to God, to everyone who has made this possible. My part has been small, often poorly performed, but there was always a feeling that some day it would come. What has come without our striving for, will be sustained by the Providence who prompted this great gift.

Are you satisfied is a question often asked me. Fairly well, yes. There is a sense in which I am not. The social physical and mental needs of our boys are now in a fair way to be met. What about the spiritual? I am in doubt. If there is any way out, I would like to know it. With my sincere thanks to all who have been kind to the boys and to me, I close my seventh annual report.

Respectfully submitted
Thos. Chew Supt.

Report of Committee on Fresh Air Fund.

To the Directors of the Boys Club.

In the Spring the Fall River Herald kindly offered to help the work of the Club by giving us the free use of its columns to open a Fresh air Fund. Not only would they help us in that way but led the fund with the sum of twenty-five dollars. Day by day the fund grew until by August eleventh the sum had reached $162.53. The money was spent during July and August making many boys and girls very happy. There were excursions to the farm, by rail and by barge, an excursion to Newport, and many pleasant days passed at the Farm by the boys (some of whom were in very poor health, and were very much benefited by their week or two weeks outing as the case required. We wish to say that our Superintendent has done good work with the fund

every dollar telling to its utmost
The Board of Directors of the Club wish
to thank the Herald and all the citizens
of Fall River who have so generously
helped us in this good work.
Hoping that another year we can do
much better and bring more helpfulness and health to our boys.

Yours respectfully
Martha M. Brow.

Voted reports be accepted, and placed on file.
Copy of letter sent to Herald.

Mr. Geo. R. H. Buffington
Dear Sir.

At the Annual meeting of the Corporation of the Fall River Boys Club held September 20th 1897 it was voted: the hearty appreciation of the members of the Corporation be expressed to Mr. Buffington of the Herald for his kindness in soliciting through the Herald contributions for the outing fund for the members of the club.

Resp
Harriet M. Brayton Secretary.

On motion of Dr. Abbe voted to proceed to election of Board of Directors of nine.
Voted the Secretary cast a ballot for the same Board that had served the past year, representing the vote of the Corporation.
Rev. E. A. Buck. Geo. A. Chace John D. Flint
James H. Bence. Wm. C. Atwater.
Mrs. E. M. B. Brow. Mrs. A. B. French.
" Henry Davis. and Miss Harriet M. Brayton, were declared by the President to be unanimously elected.
The Corporation then proceeded to ballot for Secretary and Treasurer.

Voted Mr. Chew cast ballot for Harriet M. Brayton Secretary, representing vote of corporation, and she was declared by the chair unanimously elected.

Voted Mr. Chew cast ballot for James H. Bence for Treasurer representing vote of corporation. He was declared by the Chair unanimously elected.

Voted to adjourn

Harriet M. Brayton
Secretary.

Immediately after adjournment of Annual meeting a meeting of the Directors was held, at which meeting Rev. E. A. Buck was chosen President, and Geo. A. Chace Vice President.

At a special meeting of the Corporation held January 5th 1898 twelve members were present.

Call of meeting read by Secretary.

The President stated we had been called together to act upon accepting the deed of the building.

On motion of Mr Flint voted the deed be accepted and a committee of three be appointed to draw up resolutions to be placed on our records, and a copy sent to Mr Borden.

Special meeting to accept deed of new building

Mr. Buck, Mr. J Corton and Mr Skinner were appointed on said Committee and they presented the following:

To Mr. Matthew C. D. Borden

Dear Sir.

At a meeting of the Corporation of the Boys Club of Fall River held Jan. 5 1888 to act on the acceptance of your munificent gift of the splendid building erected by you, and so generously given for the benefit of the boys of our city, it was unanimously resolved that we extend to Mr. Matthew C. D. Borden of New York our most heart-felt thanks for this noble gift. In doing this, we wish to state that in our judgment it is calculated to prove one of the most beneficent works which could be done for the future welfare of our city. The boys of all the nationalities represented in our city are here gathered from evening to evening. By these gatherings the boys are not only rescued from the pernicious influences of street associations, but they receive also the benefit of incipient training for future usefulness, second only to that gained in our public schools. These boys also are in the way of being together Americanized and fitted for future citizenship and Christian standing which shall make them a blessing to the nation

Resp
E. A. Buck, President.

On motion of Mr. John P. Slade it was voted to accept the same
The President presented the deed for the Dean Farm to the Corporation.
On motion of Mr. Skinner voted to accept the same for the Corporation
Voted to adjourn

Harriet H. Brayton
Secretary.

The seventh annual meeting of the Corporation of the Boys Club of Fall River was held September 19th 1898. At the Boys Club at 4 P. M

Seven members were present the President in the chair

The following call of meeting was read by the Secretary

Boys Club of Fall River

The Annual meeting of the Corporation of the Boys Club of Fall River will be held at the Boys Club Anawan St Monday September 19th at 4.30 P. M

1st To hear and act upon the reports of the Secretary. Treasurer Superintendent and Committees

2d To amend constitution substituting Board of Directors for Executive Committee where ever it may occur

3d To elect officers for ensuing year.

4th To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Harriet H. Brayton
September 12th 1898 Secretary

This was followed by reading records of previous meeting which were approved and voted placed on file

The following annual reports were then read.

Annual report of Secretary.

The past year has been a memorable one in the history of the Boys Club. Each year of the clubs existance has been a stepping stone to the next, until now we are in a condition to accomplish our highest ideals. The first year 1890 showed the need of such an institution by the number of boys who sought membership and the privileges of the club even in its small beginnings. The second year the need of larger quarters was felt and by God's blessing secured. The third year the club was incorporated - the fourth new branches of industry introduced, the fifth additional rooms taken, - the sixth, the club had the promise from Mr. M. C. D. Borden of New York of a new building - a farm also was given by Mrs. George H. Deane in Freetown to be devoted to the interests of the Boys. The seventh year work was begun upon the edifice on Anawan St. This brings us to the present calandar year. This commodious building especially designed and erected for the club was dedicated Jan. 12th 1898. Invitations were sent to the contributors, 1500 in all. The exercises were brief at the request of Mr. Borden. Music was furnished by the Orchestra. The one drawback was the absence of the donor. Each guest was enthusiastic and loud in the praises of the building. The two following days it was open to the general public.

Saturday Jan. 15th was the first evening for the boys. More than 900 were present. The entertainment was musical, with a talk on the care of the building by the Superintendent. The boys sent a telegram to Mr. & Mrs. Borden, and gave them three hearty cheers. The boys bore their disappointment, when Clarey's band which had been engaged failed to appear, and the Fall Line

Herald gave them, then and there the kindly assurance that it would be responsible for a band the following Saturday evening. The Herald provided the whole entertainment for Jan. 22nd when the American band was in attendance. The boys admiration for the building was unbounded, and many of them had happy dreams of the gymnasium swimming pool, billiard alley and library. The regular work of the new building began the next week.

The question has been repeatedly asked how could the club with so many members move into such a large building and within a few days appear as if it had always enjoyed these many privileges? Few clubs could have done so, but every branch of the work had been thoroughly studied and systemized by the Superintendent for months before entering the building. Mr. Chew looked at the rooms and offices from his own stand-point as well as that of the boys.

The boys were welcomed on the evening of Jan. 17th by the faithful janitor who had been with the club since its beginning — Mr. John L. Chew who had been identified with the club for many years was also there. Messrs. Blecker and Littlefield in the gymnasium, and King in the swimming pool were new comers and strangers to the Boys. All of these instructors have done most efficient work. The Corporation desires to thank also Messrs. Acomley. Wallace. Coney. Walkden.

Foley, Easton, and Brayton for their timely help, in forming classes in History, debating, and vocal culture as well as assistance in the library. The orchestra was desirous of obtaining uniforms, and in March the Directors aided them in obtaining funds by having an auction party at Mr. John D. Flint's house, which netted them $111. The Committee on Library, was responsible for a lecture by Dr. E. E. Hale, and the repeating by members of the Kemble Club of "Mr. Bob" for the benefit of the Club. Their kindness will be long remembered. From these two entertainments $164. were realized. Were the Superintendent not present, much could be said of his magnetic influence, increasing exertions and his improvement of many and varied opportunities to reach the hearts of the boys, and winning them to the right.

The club now feels that it is an important factor in the training, educating and uplifting of the boys of our city, and holds a prominent place among the public institutions of our city. Because a good friend of the boys has from the abundance of his generosity given the building to the club, it does not follow that he is to support it. That is for the citizens to do, and it needs most liberal and hearty support. $4000. a year.

The club is run most economically by the Directors and superintendent, each penny doing double duty if possible. Do not decrease, but on the other hand increase your subscriptions. A future hope is for a permanent fund. Another hope is an opportunity of doing for the mothers of the boys. By giving them lectures on hygiene and the laws of health. Before the close of another year, the wish of all is that the givers of this building will be able to visit the boys in their new home and view the completion of a work which promises unlimited opportunity.

Resp submitted
Harriet E. Boughton
Secretary

Voted report of Secretary be accepted and placed on file.

Treasurer's Annual report.

Sept. 19th 1887

Balance		$984.38
Subscription	2419.54	
Building	515.61	
Farm	306.42	
Sale of old boiler	45.00	
Total receipts		3286.57
		4270.95

Expenses

Salaries	$1824.63	
Lighting	129.28	
Water	139.85	
Heating	290.17	
Building	1045.38	
Insurance	517.00	
Stationery	45.63	
Postage	61.25	
Farm	2.75	
Rent of old rooms	30.00	
Games	26.00	$4101.94
Total expenses		
Balance	$169.01	4270.95

Voted Treasurer's report be accepted and placed on file.

Superintendents Annual report.

Mr. President, Ladies and gentlemen. In presenting my report for the past season the time covered is from January to September 1898. Membership tickets to the number of 958 were given to boys before the opening night. No more were given until the first of February following. The first week was the most trying of any we have ever had, more boys wished to come in than we could possibly take care of. It was a matter of very little consequence to me that the boys hooted and hissed me, when I went to the door, but I was sorry to have them treat some of our friends so, ladies as well as gentlemen. Their conduct would not have been so bad, if they had not been deprived of their club so long. It was more impatience than real wickedness. The attendance has been as follows:

		Average per night.	Membership.
January	7513	537	958
February	15884	620	1400
March	9781	376	1650
April	7925	304	1736
May	3307	140	1742
June	1907	73	1742
July	806	32	1742
August	1697	62	1742
	49922	246	

The attendance might have been larger if during the first two months we had not limited certain boys to coming three nights each week. We opened the club at 6.30 and the youngest boys went home at 8 o'clock. The larger boys then came in and stayed until 10 o'clock. The club has been closed but three evenings except Sunday since Jan. 15th. These were on account of Dr. Hale's lecture, the Kemble Club's play, and Fourth of July.

The work has been very much like starting a new club. There was so much to see, and every new thing must be tried, and the boys had to have their fill before settling down to routine. The gymnasium was closed the last of April with a total attendance of 4439, or an average of 67 per evening. The swimming pool has had 8290 patrons, not counting members of the gymnasium who had the use of it as part of their exercises. The bowling alley has been used by 5655 boys. The number of boys washing hands and faces could not be kept accurately, but it is up in the thousands.

Penny Savings Bank.

The record of this branch of our work is not as good as we could wish but the boys have had less money to deposit and have even needed the money already saved. Eighteen boys have made a beginning in saving. There were 249 deposits made, amounting to $77.64 an average of $.31 to each deposit. $37.8- was deposited in city banks, and

83.18 was withdrawn. Assuredly part of this money was withdrawn of necessity. Clothing, Shoes, food and other things were purchased with it. Part of it was used to purchase bicycles, bats, and balls. We may hope to do better by and bye. Some boys have learned the benefit of saving for a definite object, a new suit for Easter, a bicycle, a Christmas present, or a fund for an outing. Habits formed in their youth are apt to stay with them in later years.

Entertainments.

There have been eleven entertainments given with a total attendance of 7255, an average of 660. Short addresses were made by Mr. W. C. Atwater, Hon. A. J. Jennings, Mr. G. B. Smith Esq. and Mr. Albert Davis. We cannot mention all who took parts in the entertainments, but we are very thankful to the Fall River Herald for a band concert. Mr. Geo. W. Haddock for a magic lantern exhibition, the Kismet Banjo, and Mandolin club for a first class show. Mrs. Geo. S. Eddy and daughter, Mr. Norman S. Easton, Miss Annie Welch, and Miss Ada Chace together with the Ladies on our board have done very much to make our entertainments a success. We must not forget that many of our boys have done their part.

Orchestra.

This feature of the club has been a surprise to us all. It was formed at the request of the boys themselves. They have always been willing to play for the club on any special occasion, and have taken a good part in our entertainments. The generous amount secured at the auction party has not been used yet, there not being enough money to secure all they wanted in the way of a uniform. They wish to give a concert to their own friends to get a little more money. They will soon begin rehearsals for the winter. Mr. Thomas E. Tracey has been a faithful and efficient leader, and we may expect under his instructions to see further improvement.

Open air work.

We have not attempted to do much this year for two reasons: we had very little money and the club was kept open all summer. One boy was kept at the farm for eleven weeks, and 119 boys were taken to Newport, for a day and provided with dinner. This excursion cost $34.58 - We may hope when better times come to do very much more than this. If we could secure the co-operation of Taunton and New Bedford people. I should like to see our farm houses used as a permanent home for incurable crippled children from these cities, and the boys spend July and August living in fields of the farm.

Gifts of books.

We have had numerous gifts of second hand books and papers. Mr. Henry B. Earle in addition to his gift of 150 books last year has very kindly subscribed for this copies of the Youths Companion, St. Nicholas, and Harpers Round Table, all paid for until the beginning of the next century. Dr. Thompsons gift was a new dictionary, which has been very much used. Hon. Oscar S. Straus our minister to Turkey, sent us two books of which he is the author. The daily papers have all been given free by the publishers. Frank Leslies Weekly comes to us as the gift of Miss Brayton. Dumb Animals and Peace come to us regularly.

Visitors

We have had a great many visitors. They have come from all parts of our country, Canada and across the sea. Curiosity brought many, and the desire for information brought others. There were none who had ever seen a better building for the purpose, and all had some word of praise and good wishes for the club. Those who had had dealings with boys were most critical and aſked the most searching questions. Some would praise one thing and some another, but nearly all emphasized the good of the evening school. We have had superintendents and workers from other clubs. It is no disparagement of the rich and the learned men, those high in official and social places to say that the keenest appreciation among our visitors has been shown by school teachers and policemen. They know what needs to be done and see results even quicker than parents themselves. We have a record book for the names of visitors, the first to sign being Edward Everett Hale.

There have been 1650 people asked to contribute to the club, of which 1050 have done so. There has been a falling off in the amount subscribed by old contributors of $350, and an increase from new subscribers and a few old ones of $450. We may reasonably hope with a return of better times to get back what we have lost and retain nearly all of what we have gained. Please do not get the impression that the difference between income and expenses is for something extraordinary - Insurance 507 for three years. [illegible] lights $113. Lockers and dressing case $197. These three items account for all the extra expenditures. There are many other items which will not occur next year, as mats, clocks, curtains for stage etc. We would like to branch out somewhere and we must ask for a larger subscription next year.

Our work as a whole.

The club work as a whole has been limited. We had no room for classes at the begining of the year, and but little of that kind of work was attempted. The greatest thing we have ever tried was a singing school held on Sunday afternoons. This was carried on for seven weeks with results not what we expected. The voices of the boys were sore, caused perhaps by their shouting so loud while at play.

A class in history and parliamentary law had several meetings. A bicycle club was formed and had a parade on Decoration day.

We have had several meetings where the boys have sung the popular songs of the day, and occasionally patriotic songs. The printed sheets containing these songs were set up by our own printing class.

The gymnasium classes have been in charge of Messrs. Tilcher, and Littlefield. These classes have been held on four evenings of the week, and Wednesday evening has been given over to the older set of boys, many of them former members of the club.

The swimming pool was in charge of Mr. King and not a few boys have improved in swimming while he helped many who could not swim at all.

There have been no serious accidents either in the gymnasium or pool. We have had as many as 1400 boys in the swimming pool in one week. These two features and the bowling alley have held the interest of many boys. For the gymnasium they have paid a monthly fee of five cents, for the use of the swimming pool one cent and bowling alleys also one cent. We have also had classes in the gymnasium and swimming composed of ladies - These were paying classes. They have expressed themselves as being pleased with their accommodations, and it was a pleasure to us to have them as well as a good thing financially.

We have had much more intimate acquaintance with the parents of our boys than ever before. We had one entertainment for the parents and older members of the families which was well attended. Many parents come regularly. Others to get tickets for their boys. Not a few want the boys to have the privilege of the gymnasium. One boy proved to be so disobedient that he was refused admission to the club. He came soon after with his mother. I told her what the trouble was, and she asked me to try him again, promising her co-operation. Together we managed to keep him tolerably straight. A policeman on one of the worst beats of the city, gave cards to a number of boys he met which were redeemed at the club, the policeman paying five cents for each card presented to us and further promising to pay for any boy who could not secure his monthly fee. The school teachers are not a whit behind in speaking of the good effects of the club upon the boys.

The boys have shown improvement since we came here. Of our 1742 members many are now boys who had not been in the club for the past two or three years. To oversee some of the rooms I have had about six of my oldest boys, and they have done very good work. A boy does not like to be "bossed" by a boy of his own age, and yet a great many have submitted to being "bossed" on account of the privilege they have enjoyed.

When a boy was put out of the club for mis-conduct his probationary period was made to include the night of an entertainment if possible. Any damage done to the building by the 49,992 attendants was purely accidental. We cannot expect to have so large an attendance every year perhaps, and we shall without a doubt continue to grow.

This report to me does not mean much more than my first report did. There will be as much difference in the ninth annual report of the work done in this building, as there is between this report, and the work done in the old building on Third street.

We have now a greater promise of permanency. While we have never hurried our work in the past in order to make a show. I hope you will not feel impatient if we seem to be slower here. Permanent work, lasting good is what we must aim at. It is not wise to continue in the same routine all the time. We are going to try a boys republic this year. Next year it may be a limited monarchy, and then an unlimited. No lasting good is accomplished unless the boys are kept interested.

We shall also make an effort to reach the clubs about the city. We can do some good with a big crowd of boys, but where a man or woman meets with a small group of boys one or two nights each week much more can be done. We do not wish to attract such boys to have them desert their club but rather to give them such aid as we can and help the clubs to become more attractive. We hope to have them form a union and meet with us occasionally at an entertainment or lecture. I have had one or two promises of co-operation already.

Another plan is to use part of our large room up in the attic for club rooms. A small rent to be charged, and they are to have a limited use of the building. We have one such club already composed of Jews. This kind of work is carried on largely by college settlements. We shall do much more to interest the parents and if possible we will try and give a few lectures on nursing and caring for the sick to the mothers. We shall have our printing class, printing a paper called the "Record." Carpentry classes at work this winter, & above all our cobbler class which will be

so much needed.
I have been troubled to know just what things to mention this afternoon, and what to leave out. Some of the things we are going to do in the future depend upon strength and money. It has been something of a struggle this year. We have still held to the principle of buying nothing we could not pay for. This will be binding us in the future. We can but wish that something may be done this coming year towards an endowment fund. We have never had more money than we can wisely use. I look into the future with hope, sanguine that we can hold what we have, and make a gain for the future. We do thank most heartily those who have contributed to our work, those who have sustained us and helped us, who are numerous. Never has the interest in the club been so wide spread. To the Directors my hearty appreciation of their kindness I wish to express, because they have been lenient with my shortcomings and have encouraged me when depressed. My hope is that our citizens the Board and you are pleased with what has been done. And helping us we will do more and better work next year.

Resp. Yours

Thomas Chew Superintendent.

Voted the report of the Superintendent be accepted and placed on file.

It was voted unanimously to amend the Constitution by substituting Board of Directors for Executive Committee wherever it may occur.
On motion of Mrs. Brow voted to proceed to the election of Board of Directors of nine – and a Secretary and Treasurer.
Voted the Secretary cast ballot for the previous Board.
Rev. E. A. Buck, George A. Chace. John D. Flint Wm. C. Atwater, James H. Bence. Mrs. E. H. B. Brow. Mrs. A. B. French. Mrs. Henry Davis and Miss Harriet H. Brayton and they were unanimously elected.
Voted Mrs. Brow cast ballot for Harriet H. Brayton for Secretary, and James H. Bence for Treasurer, representing the ballot of the Corporation, and they were respectfully declared elected.
It was voted to have the annual reports printed in the local papers.
Voted to adjourn.

Harriet H. Brayton.
Secretary.

(At a meeting of the Board of Directors held immediately after adjournment of the annual meeting Rev. E. A. Buck was unanimously elected President and George A. Chace Vice President.)

Charter.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Be it known that whereas E. A. Buck, James H. Bence, Harriet H. Brayton, Percy S. Grant, Elizabeth French, Maria Davis, George A. Chace, Thomas Chew, John D. Flint, and Martha M. Brow

have associated themselves with the intention of forming a corporation under the name of the
Boys Club of Fall River,

for the purpose of improving the moral, physical, intellectual, and social nature of boys,

and have complied with the provisions of the Statutes of this Commonwealth in such case made and provided, as appears from the certificate of the
President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Executive Committee,
of said corporation, duly approved by the Commissioner of Corporations, and recorded in this office:

Now, Therefore, I, William M. Olin, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Do Hereby Certify that said E. A. Buck, James H. Bence, Harriet H. Brayton, Percy S. Grant, Elizabeth French, Maria Davis, George A. Chace, Thomas Chew, John D. Flint, and Martha M. Brow;

their associates and successors, are legally organized and established as and are hereby made an existing corporation under the name of the

Boys Club of Fall River

with the powers, rights, and privileges, and subject to the limitations duties, and restrictions which by law appertain thereto.

Witness my official signature hereunto subscribed, and the seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereunto affixed, this thirteenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety two.

Wm. M. Olin
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

(Copy)

Constitution of the Corporation
# of the
Boys Club of Fall River.

Article I
Name.

The name of this Corporation shall be the Boys Club of Fall River.

Article II.
Membership.

Amended Sept. 19-1888 substituting Board of Directors for Executive Committee where-ever it may occur.

Any person, on recommendation of the Executive Committee, by signing the Constitution, and paying the sum of three dollars, may become a member of the Corporation, and there-after may continue a member, by payment of annual fee of three dollars.

Article III
Object.

The object of this Club is to provide and maintain rooms for the improvement of the moral, physical, intellectual, and social nature of boys. The Club shall be furnished with books, games, and a Penny Savings Bank.
The Club may also be provided with manual training classes, educational classes, baths, dormitories and an employment bureau, entertainments, and lectures.

Article IV
Officers.

The officers shall consist of a President,
Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and
Board of Directors — an Executive Committee of nine, of which
the Secretary and Treasurer shall be
ex-officio members.

Board of Directors — The Executive Committee, Secretary and
Treasurer shall be chosen annually by
ballot, by the Corporation. At a subse-
quent meeting, the Executive Committee
shall choose by ballot from their number,
a President and Vice-President.

All the above officers shall hold their
office until their successors are chosen.

Article V.
Duties of Officers.

The President, or in his absence, the Vice-
President, shall preside at all meetings of
the Corporation.

The Secretary shall keep a record of all
Board of Directors meetings of the Corporation, and Executive
Committee, and shall notify the mem-
meetings bers of regular or special meetings.

The Treasurer shall have the custody of
the funds of the Corporation, and shall
disburse the same as ordered by the
Board of Directors — Executive Committee. He shall keep in books
belonging to the Corporation a correct
record of his receipts and expenditures,
and present a report thereof at each
annual meeting.

The Board of Directors — The Executive Committee shall have full
charge of the management of the Cor-
poration and may make or authori-
ze all necessary contracts.

They shall make such rules and regulations for the government of the Corporation as they deem expedient. They shall audit the accounts of the Treasurer immediately before the Annual meeting each year.

Article VI
Meetings of Executive Committee and Quorum.

Amended Sept. 17th '94 page 33 Amended: At any one meeting of the Corporation five members shall constitute a quorum. The Board of Directors [illegible] [illegible] majority of the elected members of its members shall constitute a quorum.

Board of Directors

At any one meeting of the Corporation, or Executive Com. five members shall constitute a quorum. The Executive Committee shall hold monthly meetings from October until June. Special meetings may be called at the request of three members of the Executive Committee. Notice shall be sent by the Secretary for all meetings at least seven days before the date ordered.

Board of Directors

Article VII
Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting shall be held the third Monday in September, at which meeting the annual report of Secretary, Treasurer, and Superintendent shall be read, and officers for ensuing year elected.

Article VIII.
Amendments.

The By-Laws may be amended by a two thirds vote at any meeting of the members of the Corporation, provided that a notice of the proposed amendments shall have been sent to each member of the Corporation at least one week before the date of the meeting at which it is acted on.

E. A. Buck.	Deceased
Geo. H. Chace	Deceased.
Harriet H. Brayton	"
Martha M. Brown,	Deceased
Elizabeth French	Deceased.
Thomas Chew.	
Percy S. Grant. deceased.	Resigned September 16th 1895.
Frank B. Albro	
Edward L. Anthony	Deceased –
J. O. Flint	Deceased.
A. J. Abbe	
L. Horne Skinner	
Jno. C. Eddy	Deceased.
E. C. Buffinton	Deceased.
Wm. C. Atwater	New York
Geo. W. Dean	Deceased.
Mrs. Geo. W. Dean	Deceased
George E. Howe	Deceased.
Edward B. Jennings	"
Geo. H. Hills.	Deceased
John P. Slade	Deceased.
John H. Gifford	Deceased.
David F. Slade.	Deceased.
Thos. J. Borden	Deceased.
Thomas D. Covel	"
Benj. C. Gifford	Out of City
Maria Davis	Deceased.
James W. Bence.	Deceased.
D. F. Riddell	"
Frederic A. Gee.	
Robt. Ashworth	Deceased.
James Brady Jr	Deceased.
H. Fidelia Davis	+
Wm. T. Leonard.	Deceased

Edith Brown Davis.	Deceased
Arthur H. Mason	Deceased.
Tilghman R. Vestal	"
✓ [illegible]	"
John A. C. Brayton	Deceased.
James A. Marshall	Deceased
✓ [illegible]	"
✓ [illegible]	
[illegible]	Deceased
Nath'l B. Borden	Deceased.
P. P. Morris	Deceased
Joseph W. Bowen	Deceased
✓ Sarah L. Buffington by J. L. B.	"
✓ Henry H. Earl	Deceased
Alfred S. Chandler	Address unknown
Emily Wescott Borden	Deceased
C. S. Greene	Deceased
✓ Delia C. Osborn	"
✓ Richard J. Thompson.	"
Fenner A. Chace.	✓
June 5, 1812 James H. Mahoney	
Asa A. Mills	
✓ Edward S. Adams	
✓ Edward B. Varney	✓
Clarence E. Bury.	
Samuel Sandler M.D.	
G. M. Maker M.D.	

The eighth annual meeting of the Corporation of the Boys Club of Fall River was held September 18th 1899 at the Club at 4 P. M.
Five members were present.
The following call of meeting was read by Secretary.

Boys Club of Fall River.

The annual meeting of the Corporation of the Boys Club of Fall River will be held at the Boys Club Anawan St.
Monday September 18th at 4 P. M.
1st To hear and act upon the reports of the Secretary, Treasurer, Superintendent and Committees.
2nd To elect officers for ensuing year.
3rd To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Harriet H. Brayton
Secretary

Fall River Mass. September 11th 1899

Annual meeting
Monday
Sept. 18th
1899.

This was followed by reading records of previous meeting, which were approved and voted placed on file.
The following Annual reports were then read.

Annual report of Secretary.

Five members out of forty three members of Corporation were present

The members of this Corporation, and citizens of Fall River, need no annual report of the Boys Club from the Secretary. The work of the Club has been sounded from the Atlantic to the Pacific through the press during the past year.
The illustrated article in the December New England Magazine by Edith Parker was at that time placed in over 20,000 families. A few copies

even went to Foreign Countries, and our local newspapers have been friendly to the interest of the Club. But there is a vast amount of good done to the individual member of the Club, by the Superintendent that does not come to the ears of the public. The Superintendents earnestness, and devotion to the work, increases each year.

The past month the Board of Directors have reluctantly accepted the resignation of two of their number,

Mrs. A. B. French, who was one of the Charter members, and Mrs. Henry Davis, who has been identified with the Club eight years. Both have been active sympathetic members and workers.

The Club enters upon the new year, with-out debts, with hosts of friends, and wider opportunities for work. Still we look for your continued aid, and interest. and with Divine favor we hope to accomplish in the new Century more of good than in the past.

Harriet H. Brayton Secretary.

Annual report of Treasurer.

September 1st 1898	$169.01	
Subscriptions	$3131.08	
Building	540.39	
Interest on deposit	3.40	
		$3843.88

Expenses.

Salaries	$2114.16
Gas	128.41

Electric lights	$34.16	
Water	236.54	
Coal	293.60	
Building	298.79	
Postage	50.25	
Entertainments	92.71	
Library	33.01	
Stationary	20.23	
Gymnasium	36.60	
Printing	26.69	
Games	14.68	
Express	1.90	
Car fares	1.00	
Insurance form	4.40	
		$3407.63

Receipts	3843.88
Expenditures	3407.63
	436.25, Balance.

Excursion account.

Subscriptions $183.53
Expenditures 170.51
15.02, Balance.

Orchestra account.

Balance $111.00
Talbot & co. suits 108.00
3.00, Balance.

Library account

Balance $161.67
Table $3
Book case 25.00
Books 28.87 $56.87
$104.80, Balance.

James H. Bence
Treasurer.

Superintendents report.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen.
In presenting my ninth annual report to-day, I do it with a deep feeling of thankfulness. During nearly ten years of growth which has been steady, we have had few serious draw backs to encounter. The clouds which have been darkest, have lasted but a little while. In some respects this has been a hard year, but it closes with a brighter promise than preceding years. There are three things which may be properly emphasized in this report. 1st Our growth.

2nd The necessity of striving for and receiving the coöperation of the parents and homes in our work.

3rd The opportunity of retaining the influence gained, over many boys in the most dangerous period of their young manhood.

Growth.

1880-1881	— 900 members and	19,170 aggregate attendance,	
1881-1882	— 1000	21,402	" "
1882-1883	— 1169	24,043	" "
1883-1884	— 1329	27 347	" "
1884-1885	— 1430	29 946	" "
1885-1886	— 1516	33 247	" "
1886-1887	— 1803	38 825	" "
(Jan. 15 to Aug. 30) 1887-1888	— 1742	48 820	" "
1888-1889	— 2100	63 592	" "

Total 306392

More than one third of these have come into this building during the past year and a half. We must expect a gradual increase in the years to come, as being both natural and desirable. The attractions in the club must be given credit for the large membership, as the small fee, and a stricter discipline has had its effect upon some boys. We have had to abandon some of our theories. The bowling alley and swimming pool have been made free. When we charged a fee of one cent for each of these there was a decided preference given to the bowling alley. I was afraid the fascination for bowling might be too strong a temptation for some boys and perhaps be the means of hurting them instead of helping them. Since the swimming pool was made free it has become more popular, which is the end in view. To have had 8000 boys in the swimming pool, besides many others using the baths, is a record of which we need not be ashamed. In point of popularity the bowling alley leads with more than 12000 bowlers. This is all who could use the alleys at the time, but by no means all who wanted to do so. The gymnasium has done about as well as last year with 4600 boys in the classes. We had a large number of entertainments during the past season. Every Monday evening we tried to present some attraction. Our own Dramatic Company, assisted by some of their lady friends presented two Dramas. They also took part in other entertainments, singing songs or reciting. Mr. John C. [illegible] has had the training of the company. There have been quite a number of young people from churches and societies here to repeat some entertainment given to their own societies. Our thanks are due to Mr. H. H. Coolidge for his invaluable assistance in this line. The American Band gave a concert, and our own Orchestra, besides playing at most of the entertainments gave a special concert to the boys, and on the occasion of wearing their uniform for the first time played for the men and women of the Home for the aged. A small company of boys were passing one of our Theatres, and looking in one boy said to the others "Oh gee, I am sick of shows. I can go to the Boys Club any Thursday night and see a better show than they give here" this is what a reporter of one of our local papers heard. Is this the only boy who is sick of shows, through the better things we have offered them? Our anniversary deserves a few words for itself. In the afternoon a luncheon was served at which 700 boys were present. At night 700 boys were present at the entertainment. With the visitors we had about 1500 people present, during that day. A special collection of one cent from each boy was taken to help one of their own members, who was in the hospital with a broken limb.

The game room and libraries have been well patronized. A number of bound volumes were the gift of Mr. George W. Page. During the summer we have had four parties of boys at the Farm for one week. A party of sixty five boys went there for one day. Some of the older boys go out on Thursday afternoons and Holidays. We have a number of tickets left, which are good until the last of October, and will be used in this way.

About 160 boys have been at the farm this summer. One of our older boys went with us this Summer and it was his duty to accompany the boys wherever they went. The results proved satisfactory as we had no complaints or accidents. I could leave the boys in his care, and come home if needed. Three excursions were made to Touisset Park, at the kind invitation of the manager, Mr. Hooper. About 233 boys went in all. A special excursion of 21 boys went to Dighton Park from the farm. While the boys were having their vacation, we had as welcome guests in our building The Working Girls Club. To them it was a treat which was greatly appreciated. Their attendance averaging more than 100 each evening. We found the condition of the building as good as it was before, so that we can now say there have been more than 112.000 boys and 2000 girls in this building, without one single mark to mar it, that was done purposely. If we can only continue such a record, and have the building in constant use, a superintendents report will be superfluous. The Working Girls Club have tendered their thanks to us by letter and individually. We hope that the good time may live, and that we may some day "Lend a Hand" to them again.

The Penny Savings Bank received $103.20 and $90.78 was withdrawn. Most of this money was used for necessary clothing, and shoes.

The Carpenters Classes were in session as in previous years. One of our largest boys cane-seated several chairs, and instructed a small class in the work.

Miss N. E. Buck had classes in clay, modelling and in drawing which proved very attractive to many boys.

Some clothing, stockings, mittens, etc. have been given away to those who were thought to be most needy.

Through the publication of the article in the New England Magazine, and some news-paper articles, we have been brought prominently before the public. Our own citizens are taking a just pride in the building and take a delight in showing it, to their visiting friends.

Visitors come from all parts — to day, Brockton Mass. Nova Scotia Maine. and Texas, have been represented. Letters of enquiry, as to methods are often received. Some of our visitors are directors and workers in similar clubs in other cities, and are here with a view of gaining new ideas for their clubs. It was a great pleasure for us to have a number of the older boys and Directors of the Boys Guild of New Bedford visit us frequently, Also the Fife and Drum Corps of the Worcester Boys Club. During the summer a gentleman came in and desired to look over the Building. I showed him around and explained the work, and as he was leaving he gave his name as Mr. Walker, editor of the Cosmopolitan. He sends us fifty copies of his magazine, and influenced Scribner, Century and Mc. Clure to send from fifty to one hundred each, the Cosmopolitan comes regularly, but the others only came once.

If there is any authority on Boys Club it seems to me, it would be Mr. Jacob Riis of N.Y. Mr. Riis sent a letter of enquiry from a far West state to me, saying that he thought I could answer it, better than he could. The compliment implied by the actions of these two gentlemen was worth striving after, and it is not pride that causes me to mention them. But this: if we are being held up, as a pattern for any other club, let us strive to give the best practical work possible. It has been my privilege to speak in some of our churches upon the work attempted by the club. An Association of ministers in Maine have given me an invitation to speak to them in October upon our work with suggestions for adapting it to churches.

Unofficially I am informed that the State Association of the Y.M.C.A. will ask me to write a paper to be read at their next annual Convention. Interest in Boys Club work seems to be growing, and we may have a share in helping it along.

While we have grown in many directions I fail to see that the various societies of young men have received many accessions from our older boys. It seems to me that they ought to have felt some impetus from our work, and it seems the most natural thing for a boy accustomed to our methods to join himself to a young mens society, but it has not been done. We may be expecting too much. And this is the second point to emphasize, we must in some way get the cooperation of the parents and homes: we must do more ourselves to make good impressions permanent, good resolutions into deeds, good habits into character.

There have been many applications for membership from young fellows to whom it was absolutely necessary to say "no". Nine out of ten of those refused membership the past year were boys from 15 to 20 years of age. If a similar club to ours could be established for them it would be well patronized, and I think almost self sustaining. There is an excess of animal spirits in boys from 14 to 20 years of age which needs an outlet.

To guide them during this period is worthy of the best efforts of any man, and I hope someone will be disposed to find the means by which it may be done. My interest in the boys grows, as they get older and we become better acquainted, and I long to see the work extended to meet their needs and desires.

In financial matters we have always had a Divine hand to help us. Never before have we tried so hard to gain new contributors. On August 27th for the first time since 1890 our Treasury was empty. We used all that we had in it and there was no one to whom we could properly ask for a subscription. On the 28th of August Mrs. Borden's check for $500 towards our running expenses was received. Such a gift deserves our thanks and appreciation. We hope to be always able to have as good a report of our Treasurer presented to you to-day. But it will surely do no harm if the good people of our city should add to their contributions and enable us to start an endowment fund. We look for our sustenance to the living, but if there are those who wish to provide for our future, by remembering us in their wills, I wish to say to them that we are a Corporation and that our name is The Boys Club of Fall River.

We have spent $3,472.74 The Treasurer has told you, how it has been spent. I have tried to tell you upon whom it has been spent. You will ask the same question that others have asked so often, "Do the boys appreciate what is being done for them?" "No not any more perhaps than they do the schools, and teachers" It is not the nature of boys to express their appreciation in any formal way, a boy who would come and say "Thank you" for anything done for him personally is common enough, but the boy who would come out of a body of 500 boys to thank you for what has been done for him and them is so rare, that you would class him as either a foolish or hypocritical. Appreciation is a thing to be desired. But it is not the thing we are striving after. A boy appreciates the Club by coming to it. His appreciation must be judged more by what he does than what he says. It is an awful trial for some boys to wash their face more than once a day, but they have been known to do it twice in order to come into the Club. They will stop swearing and smoking cigarettes to do so. For appreciation we must look for something more than words. None have become angels, that I know of but some have become men of whom I am proud.

There are objections to the work of the Boys Club. Some intimate that to Have a building like this is to make them discontented, with their own humble homes. That to give them these privileges, without their paying all it costs, is to encourage a false idea of life, and encourage laziness. The first statement is true, the second is based on the oft repeated argument that "when we were boys we started work at half past four and worked until 7 o'clock at night. As good as the old days were, I have no desire to go back to them or compel others to do so. I have not seen anything that makes me believe it is the truth when applied to us "Satan finds something still for idle hands to do" our friends would defeat him with more work, and we with more play. The first statement deserves more attention. Discontent is in every breast. We are making boys more discontented, that as men they may be more contented. Can you say to a boy living in a hovel, amid squalor and dirt — be content? To one whose mother is living a life of shame openly — be content? Of one whose parents are drunkards — be content? What can we say to the lads who never knew their father, to those whose fathers have deserted them, — be content? There is not I know in the minds of those who make the objection, the construction which I have put upon it. They see only the striving for gold (they do not like to see the poor become rich if they can help it) Rich and poor we have always had and when any poor boy becomes rich by hard work, economy and industry he is to be commended. The best boy with a good home, would grow bad if he was told to stand still and be content. If our Club makes any great number of boys discontented enough to strive for something better, and nobler than they have ever felt or seen, it should be put down to our credit. To do right and be happy is my idea of contentment. If by making boys happy we can bring them to doing right it becomes our duty to do it, even if we have to stir up an healthy discontent at the begining. In our preparation for the present years work we have in mind an exchange. Books, magazines, papers and games will be placed upon a table. Every boy when he pays his monthly fee receives five checks, which are used for bowling and swimming purposes. These will become for this particular purpose Club currency. Any article on the table can be purchased for one or more checks. Or we will exchange with the boys for any paper they are in the habit of reading. I would not like the boys to grasp the object of this plan fully, for it contemplates the exchange of good books for bad books. The pure and sensible, for that which is vile and morally destructive. If our finances permit we will be able to publish a paper called "Our Record" this year.

We shall try to fill it with facts and incidents of interest to the boys and their parents. We hope to convey to the parents our desire for their coöperation and point out from time to time the ways in which they can help us. Each paper will contain a coupon good for an attendance to an entertainment when presented by a members father or mother. This plan will probably secure a reading of the paper and bring us in contact with those parents who are much concerned for their boys.

We need to raise the tone of character of our entertainments. To do this we need more money. We offer 100 tickets at one dollar each to those who would like to see the boys and the shows on Monday evenings. These tickets would be transferable, but a seat would not be reserved for the holder. The money thus obtained could be wisely used in securing desirable attractions. There is a probability of our having a conference held with us about November if we desire it.

Nearly all of the workers in Boys Clubs, and kindred organizations in New England and New York will be invited. If possible one or two good speakers will be invited to address an open public meeting in the evening. The day sessions would be open to the public and the papers presented would deal largely with the methods and results of well known workers. The end in view being to copy those things which had been popular and successful elsewhere and transfer them to other places. To give the best out of our experience to others is about the object of the Convention.

In conclusion I wish to say that our future is bright with promise. The best part of our life is that which we have given freely in helping others. Thanking you all for the kind support you have given the Club: our contributors for their generosity: the newspapers for kindly noticing the doing of the past year, and my associates for their faithful support this report is

Respectfully submitted

Thomas Chew Superintendent.

Voted To accept these reports and that they be copied on the records of the Corporation and extracts from the same be printed in the daily papers.

The next business was the election of a Board of nine Directors, and it was voted the Secretary cast ballot for Rev. E. A. Buck. Geo. A. Chace. James H. Bence. John D. Flint Wm. C. Atwater Mrs. E. H. B. Brow Mrs. Jefferson Borden, Mrs. James E. Osborn and Miss Harriet H. Brayton, and they were declared elected. Voted Mrs. Brow cast ballot for Harriet H. Brayton for Secretary and James H. Bence for Treasurer. And they were severally elected to their respective offices. Voted to adjourn

Harriet H. Brayton

Secretary

(At a meeting of the Board of Directors held immediately after adjournment of the Annual meeting Rev. E. A. Buck was unanimously elected President and George A. Chace Vice President).

The ninth annual meeting of the Corporation of the Boys Club of Fall River was held September 17th 1900. at the Club at 4.30 P.M.

Six members were present.

The President in the chair.

The following call of meeting was read by the Secretary.

Boys Club of Fall River

The Annual Meeting of the Corporation of the Boys Club of Fall River, will be held at the Boys Club Anawan St. Monday September 17th at 4.30 P.M.

1st To hear and act upon the reports of the Secretary, Treasurer, Superintendent and Committees.

2nd To elect officers for ensuing year.

3rd To amend article VI of Constitution to read "The annual meeting shall be held in January of each year".

4th To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Harriet H. Leighton
Secretary

September 10th 1900.

This was followed by reading records of previous meeting which were approved and ordered placed on file.

The following annual reports were then read.

Annual report of Secretary.

It was early in 1890 when the first steps were taken to form a Boys Club in Fall River. During the decade which has intervened our citizens have watched with interest, and paternal pride its growth and progress.

Five of the charter members of the Directors are still on its Board. A sixth charter member Mrs.

A. B. French resigned at our last annual meeting, on account of ill health, and our hearts are saddened by losing her companionship by death a few weeks since. In May the Directors were called upon, with deep regret to accept the resignation of Mr. William C. Atwater. Mr. Atwater had been for seven years, a most enthusiastic helpful member of the Board. We are happy to say the vacancy caused by his resignation was filled by the appointment of Mr. Cornelius S. Greene, and we welcome him to day, as a member of the Directors and of the Corporation.

Eight meetings of the Directors have been held during the year, with an average attendance of seven.

"By their fruits ye shall know them" could well have been the motto of the Club the past twelve months. Every arrow sent out from the Superintendents bow this year has been with a purpose, and we can well say hit the mark intended. Many of the schemes were original with the Superintendent, and each and every one planned minutely, before any steps were taken towards their development (if the Superintendents modesty will permit you will hear of them in his report)

The past ten years have shown how one individual, with pure noble feelings in the uplifting of humanity has won the respect and good will of All — man woman and child. To those (and their number is legion) who have helped to brighten the lives of these 2075 boys (members of the Club) the Directors desire to express their gratitude and thankfulness. Such an institution cannot be carried on without contributions of money, strength, time, good literature, healthful entertainments and a variety of little things which go to make up the grand whole. But above all is the feeling, you are doing it for the ever responsive, active boy, in whom if the right pure seeds of character are now planted, you will in later years have the honest, upright fellow-citizen.

Resp. submitted
Harriett H. Drayton
Secretary.

Annual report of Treasurer.
for year ending September 1st 1900.

Sept. 1 1899 balance		$436.25
Subscriptions (Regular)	2851.75	
Vacation fund (Special)	227.77	
Transfer from Library with ac	99.30	
Building	692.08	
Interest on deposit	5.75	3876.65
		$4312.90

Expenses

Salaries	$2460.28
Gas	174.83
Electric Light	62.08
Coal	365.78
Water	238.20
Building	257.34
Excursion	207.77
Entertainment	140.69
Postage	84.99

Receipts brought forward $4312.90

Piano	$88.00	
Laundry	53.26	
Games	48.61	
Pictures	24.85	
Telephone	18.83	
Library	18.43	
Gymnasium	15.52	
Printing	12.17	
Stationery	11.50	
Prizes	11.00	
Express	5.28	
P.O. Box	4.00	
Stolen things replaced	1.00	
Board & Lodging for homeless boy	1.85	$4298.26
Balance		14.64
Expenditures		4312.90

James H. Lowe
Treasurer.

Superintendent's report.

In presenting my tenth annual report I am aware that it is impossible to tell all that has been done in one single year. The most important thing of all, the effect which our work has had upon the character and lives of our boys cannot be put down in black and white. As the years go by there is a constantly increasing number of young men in positions of trust and responsibility who were once members of the Boys Club. How much influence the club has had upon them for good, no person, not even themselves could tell. A contribution of one dollar was received from a former member of the Club, with these words "I enjoy doing what I can as a slight token of my appreciation of the Club in which I spent many happy hours."

At the close of a meeting where I had been speaking about the work of the Club, one young man said "I'm one of the 'Boys Club boys'." The tone in which these words were uttered, meant as much as the words themselves. They came from a hard working boy who is striving for a college education. Many young men inquire of me about the club, keeping up a remarkable interest, and often testify to the value of the past efforts by saying "its a good thing". It not only is a good thing now, but it was a good thing for them in their boyhood days.

Our work is, and must continue to be a work in which there is no hope of reward from those who are benefited. If some dull lives are brightened, the hopeless encouraged, the tempted made strong, the fatherless and motherless given some of the privileges of a happy home, does it matter very much if we cannot tell the exact number of them, when or how, or just where our influence began or extends?

Statistics

Membership	2024
Total attendance	58001
Bowling	11561
Gymnasium	6229
Swimming pool	7475
Visitors	736
Classes. Carpentry printing drawing	406
Average attendance	230
Savings Bank Deposits	197.14
Amount of with-drawals	85.16
Amount of balance	111.98

There were forty eight new depositors stimulated by the offer of a gold medal as a prize for the boy depositing the greatest number of times. The winner deposited 75 times. There were a number of withdrawals during the summer, which has reduced the balance on hand, Aug. 1st to $45.85 The statistics compare very well with those of last year. The gymnasium gains 1802: bathing 2881. Three gold medals were given to contestants in a gymnasium exhibition. The boys had worked hard for the contest and the three prize winners had to do their very best. The success of these contests has led to offer other prizes. The advantages to the Club are these: increased attendance, and more regularity. A better showing of the work done. To the boys the advantages are more self control, a more manly spirit towards those who have done better they. The very fact that he has done his best to jump higher, or run quicker, or perform his gymnasium feats, more gracefully than his fellows, must have a good effect upon a boys character. An occasional hint that cigarettes and intemperance of any kind weakens the body, is not lost to judge from some of the conversation heard in the dressing room.

Receptions.

During the year a census was taken of the members of the Club. boys were asked to fill out a form like the following:

My name is
I live at
With my
I was born at
Day Month Year.
When I grow up to be a man I
would like to be

We particularly desired their unbiased answer of the last question. The knowledge of their birthdays will afford us an opportunity of congratulating them upon each recurring anniversary either by letter, or in person. We grouped the boys according to their expressed choice of calling. Each lady member of our Board of Directors kindly consented to meet a "group" once each month, and provide coffee and light refreshments for them. The "Lawyers" met and were given a short talk by Edward A. Thurston Esq. The "doctors" by Dr. John H. Coughlin: the "sailors" heard Mr. H. Irving Nichols tell his experiences aboard the "Prairie" — Hon. James F. Jackson addressed the "Soldiers" A number of small "groups" combined and listened to an address on "The City's Business and how it is carried on" by Mr. George H. Penniman. It proved an interesting and successful method of instructing and entertaining the boys. We propose to go one step farther this season, by organizing them into groups with their own officers. The different Chairmen or presidents will be designated according to their different callings. The "firemen" will have a chief engineer; the "police" a city marshall and the

"Doctors" a city physician. The "letter carriers" a postmaster. The "carpenters" a foreman. etc. These officers will be a sort of governing board for the whole club. I shall watch the experiment carefully and will try not to go too fast with the plan. Such schemes must develop slowly and grow, to be of any permanent value. Besides entertaining and instructing the boys, there was another end in view. These gatherings were called "receptions". Every boy received a personal or printed invitation. The lady in charge was the "hostess" and in her name the invitations were given. The boys were the "guests", and for these particular occasions were to be treated, and they were expected to act like gentlemen. They responded to the demand fairly well. Clean clothes, clean hands and faces were worn by a majority. If there were streaks of a darker shade about the neck or ears, then their faces shone, it indicated that an attempt had been made to be clean, but only partially succeeded. The natural antipathy a boy has for soap and water, cannot be overcome with coffee and cake at one reception.

Entertainments.

A Glee Club was formed a few months ago, and has had many a good time singing popular & patriotic songs. Friends have come in and sang for the boys. Something more will be done in this line the coming Winter. Miss Brayton has had this work in charge, and the boys appreciate her efforts on their behalf. There have been quite a number of entertainments given to the boys and several for the purpose of securing money for our Summer work. Among these should be mentioned. The Boys Club Dramatic Co. with two plays: St. John's Choir with an operetta: The Young Peoples Society for Christian Service with Living Art Pictures: Mr. F. L. Andrews and the Central Church Choir in a sacred concert: each one of which added something to our Summer fund.

The coöperation of the public schools in entertainments for our mutual benefit, demands and deserves more than a passing notice. The Lincoln School, (Mr. George H. Sweet, Principal, gave an entertainment from the proceeds of which Comfort bags were supplied to the United States Soldiers. The pupils of Robeson school, Miss E. M. Johnston, Principal, secured funds for a school library out of the proceeds of their entertainment, and from the two schools the club received $55. These two schools were later joined by the Brayton Avenue School, Mr. John A. Kearns, principal, in an entertainment for the raising of money to pay the expenses of a proposed Vacation School. About fifty dollars was secured. I have seen a great deal of interest shown by teachers in their scholars out of School this year, more than ever before and I must say that they have won my admiration and appreciation.

Vacation School.

This was one forward movement in club work, this year. Gathering together the children, boys and girls during five of the hottest weeks in the Summer. They came 114 strong every day. There was the kindergarten for the little ones: sewing for the older girls, and drawing and wood working for the boys. There were stories read, music little luncheons and flowers given, all of which made lives brighter and happier. The experiment was a decided success and we ought to make this a permanent feature of our work until others undertake it, not five weeks but for ten, not for 114 children, but for 400 children, if they will come. The number of volunteer teachers were so numerous that I cannot mention them all by name, but they have my thanks and yours too, I am sure. Mr. George H. Smith was in charge and the cost of the work was about ninety dollars.

Baths.

Baths for men was another new feature tried this Summer with encouraging success. Sometimes only one or two each day would come, but on Saturdays we had as many as twenty working men.

Farm.

Eighty boys spent a week there. It was the best time we have had together. "I wish we were going to the Farm instead of coming home" was the expression of many boys. Others meant the same thing, when Friday came round they wished it were Monday.

Two boys whose mothers worked in the mill, were taken care of for eight weeks. We had games of base ball, and occasionally excursions into the woods, and once to Dighton Rock Park. The boys picked large quantities of berries, some of which they ate or carried home.

We had our special occasions of rejoicing. These were generally when the Superintendent had been away for a night and had promised to have ice cream at dinner on his return, if they had been good boys. We made it ourselves and it was a treat which the boys appreciated.

This year we turned what had been a carpenters shop into a dormitory, and it held fourteen beds. The smallest boys slept in the house. I slept in the room with the boys and we had a good time. At night we sang songs or told stories. I am very glad to say that the boys did not forget, or lack courage to kneel when they said their prayers.

Excursions.

Two excursions were taken to Newport. One of a party of 121 went in special cars, furnished by the street Railroad Co. free of charge. The other was by boat and numbered 25 boys. A luncheon was provided for all, and ice cream was added to the fare, by a friend of the boys.

Our Guests.

The Working Girls Club have been our guests during the Summer, and have come into the Club in large numbers. "It's the last night we'll spend in the club where we've had many a good time" is the way one girl was overheard to express her feelings. We have had many formal expressions of thanks from the Working Girls, and I think the words uttered by this young lady was the feeling of most of them.

The Loyal Temperance Legion have met in our rooms during the year, and are well pleased with their quarters. Their annual convention was held in our hall. We expect to have them our guests the coming year.

The Fall River Natural History Society have had several meetings in our rooms, and will continue to meet with us as long as we can find suitable room for their meetings. Some of the members will try to interest our boys in some phase of Natural History, during the Winter. Members of the Society have very kindly offered to furnish specimens of various kinds if the Club will provide the Cabinets. By Co-operation with this Society we may obtain a small but useful museum. The benefits would more than compensate us for our outlay. Besides the various societies named we have had ladies gymnasium and swimming classes, a brass band and fine orchestra, several musicians practicing and individuals using our gymnasium during the day time. Some have paid in cash or in services for the Club. I have tried to make the club of use to the whole community at the least possible expense.

Some events in a year's work stand out more prominently than some others. Our tenth anniversary was one of these. Six hundred and thirty eight boys sat down to luncheon on January 13th 1900 in the afternoon. The Working Girls Club members waited upon the table, and materially assisted in serving this great number of boys. In the evening the number increased to six hundred and fifty boys, who greatly enjoyed the entertainment provided. Boxes containing fruit, and candy were given each boy at the close of the exercises. Letters were read from Governor Crane, President McKinley, and Mr. C. D. Borden. The attendance for afternoon and evening was 1288 which would be a good attendance for an ordinary week.

The Conference of Boys Club workers held in November was another prominent event. The ladies on our Board of Directors provided a generous dinner in the Club's gymnasium and a supper at Stkolls for all of the Delegates, guests and speakers. There were many expressions of praise for their liberality and cordial reception of our guests. The gentlemen on our Board of Directors did their part [illegible]. Mr. Buck presided in the morning, Mr. Chase in the afternoon, and Mr. Atwater in the evening.

The building and equipment was greatly praised. The papers read covered a great many phases of boys work. A printed account of the proceedings was published and the edition of 500 copies was sold several months ago. Many of the topics discussed were of great merit, but the greatest public interest was shown in Mr. W. R. George's address on "The George Junior Republic" Our orchestra gave a concert preceding the lecture. A friend wrote to me soon after the Conference, and his words applied to every feature of it "it was worth doing and it was done well".

Time and space forbid me to mention the number of visitors we have had, looking not merely out of curiosity at our building, but looking for special features which could be adopted in other places. These visitors have come from far off places. The letters of enquiry have been very numerous, and it is now desirable that we have some printed reports to send those who are interested in boys and boys Clubs. Such incessant questions as "how to start a boys Club" and what rules do you have" etc etc become a burden sometimes, because of their repetition. If in our next printed report, a short history of the Club, the constitution and by Laws of the Corporation, a list of good games and books, with a few general rules governing a new Club were printed we could meet the need of a great many enquiries. I have to acknowledge myself indebted to the printed reports of workers in Boys Clubs, for many helpful and practical suggestions.

Our finances are not in as good a condition as last year. We have had quite a number of our regular contributors die or sick this year, which has necessarily cut off their subscriptions. We have had a legacy of $500 left us, but it has not yet been paid to our Treasurer. Our insurance comes due next January, which will call for quite a sum of money to meet. Mr. Borden very kindly offered without solicitation to pay for repairs on the building which amounted to $100. We should not fear for the future financial condition of the club, if economically managed, for we have the most generous and willing contributors any institution could wish to have. We are looking forward to a better season's work than any of the past. The boys are coming in goodly numbers. We are getting to understand them better, and to meet their needs more fully. Some of their needs are small gifts of clothing, shoes or shirts and occasionally a meal or lodging to the very unfortunate. A word of warning or encouragement, to this or that boy, a friendly greeting to all, is a part time work and a privilege too. A helping hand to secure work is sometimes given. Tens of thousands of pieces of good reading matter is distributed in a season.

We owe thanks to a great many people who have helped us to entertain the boys. To the daily papers for free copies and many public notices, freely given. To them and to all others who have shown us any kindness we extend our thanks. We have fed some who were hungry; clothed the naked; and in one instance buried the dead. We have had accidents, made many mistakes, but through it all we have tried to be a friend to the more than two thousand boys who have been members of the Club.

Only a friend, but very often "the friend in need". Please accept my thanks for your kindness and cooperation.

Resp submitted
Thomas Chew Superintendent.

Voted to accept these reports and that they be copied on records of corporation. and printed in pamphlet form.

The next business was the election of a Board of nine Directors and it was voted the Secretary cast ballot for
Rev. E. A. Buck, George A. Chace.
James H. Bence. John D. Flint
C. L. Greene Mrs. E. M. B. Brown.
Mrs. Jefferson Borden. Mrs. James E. Osborn
and Miss Harriet M. Brayton and they were declared elected. Voted Mr. Chew cast ballot for Harriet M. Brayton for Secretary; and James H. Bence for Treasurer and they were severally elected to their respective

offices -
Voted. to lay matter of amending Article VI of constitution on the table.
Voted to adjourn.

Harriet H. Brayton
Secretary.

(At a meeting of the Directors held October 29th 1900. Rev. E. A. Buck was unanimously elected President, and George A. Chace Vice President,